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# THE TIMES

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### MADONNA MATERNAL GIRL

Or the mother of all hype?  
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### 1000 FREE TRAINING COURSES

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Creme de la Creme  
12-page jobs supplement

## Question now over future of GTech

# Peter Davis sacked as lottery chief

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JOANNA BAILE

THE national lottery regulator Peter Davis was dismissed last night on the direct orders of Tony Blair.

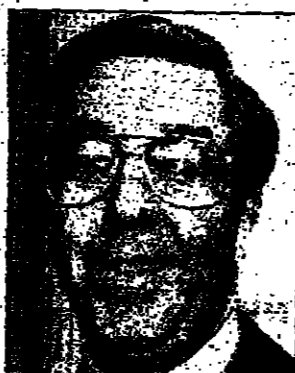
He was forced to go during a marathon meeting with Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, at the department's Trafalgar Square offices, having been summoned there to explain how he intended to maintain public confidence in the lottery after the High Court verdict that Richard Branson had been offered a bribe by Guy Snowden, a former Camelot director, to quit the race to operate it.

But an hour into a four-hour meeting, Mr Davis, whose contract was due to end in October, apparently accepted that he would have to go now. The rest of the time was taken up with lengthy negotiations over the departure terms, which include a £42,000 pay-off equal half his annual salary. Mr Davis also wanted to tell his family before Mr Smith announced the news at the meeting's end. The resignation will take effect in the next few days, and John Stoker, the deputy director, will take over until a successor is found.

Mr Smith said: "We both decided it was in the interests of the lottery that he should offer his resignation and I should accept it. We need to ensure that the lottery survives and thrives and there can be no question of any sort of difficulty about it for the future."

The decision had been taken "in view of the likelihood of continuing controversy surrounding the running of the National Lottery in the wake of the Branson libel case, and in order to ensure that public confidence in the lottery is maintained."

He added: "In accepting his resignation I would stress that there is no question mark whatsoever against Mr Davis's integrity and I am very



Davis: angry clash with photographers

grateful for the significant personal contribution he has made to making the UK lottery the success it is."

Mr Smith said: "Mr Stoker's first priority will be to see to completion the work set in hand by Mr Davis to secure assurances from Camelot that Mr Snowden is no longer in any way involved in the management of the National Lottery and that he will not be in a position to draw any direct financial benefit from the National Lottery through his involvement with GTech."

By putting a question mark over the future of the American GTEch, which has a 22.5 per cent share, Mr Smith also paved the way for further far-reaching changes to the running of the lottery. Mr Snowden

is chairman and a shareholder of GTEch and would clearly still benefit. Mr Smith appeared to be suggesting that he would have to stand down if GTEch is to retain its role as suppliers of the lottery's technical equipment.

Mr Branson said after the decision: "What is important is that the people of this country play the lottery because they feel attached to it and they feel that it is doing a lot of good for the country and it is not a lottery based on greed. What we need is a director general who cleans up the lottery. The move that Chris Smith has made today is a step in that direction."

Mr Davis left the Department of Media, Culture and Sport by a back door to avoid reporters.

In the hours before the meeting all the indications from the Culture Department had been that Mr Davis would be given orders to get his act together, but that he would not be sacked. Mr Davis himself had refused to stand down. But it was clear that the Prime Minister was not happy that a man who had narrowly escaped dismissal under the Tories should be allowed to stay in his job.

The High Court revelation that Mr Branson had told Mr Davis of the attempted bribe by Mr Snowden, but that no action had been taken, was seen in Downing Street as the final straw. Mr Blair held talks with Mr Smith and it was clear that when the fateful meeting began there was little hope for the embattled Oflot director general.

He had entered at 3.20pm and had to fight his way into the building, shouting "get out of my way". Greeted by a media scrum, he became embroiled in angry clashes. As he tried to push his way through photographers there was an angry exchange and he was forced back into the road.

Moynihan's role, page 5  
Leading article, page 19



Rescue workers survey the wreckage of the cable car on the slopes of Mount Cermis yesterday. A US military jet sliced through the cable

## 20 die in cable car fall after jet cuts wire

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TWENTY people fell three hundred feet to their deaths in the Dolomites yesterday when an American military aircraft sliced through the steel wire supporting a cable car carrying skiers.

Witnesses on the slopes who watched as the cable car crashed to the ground said the plane, an Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler jet from the US base at Aviano sixty miles away, had been flying "very very low" and appeared to be trying to gain height when it hit the cable.

"It seemed to have technical trouble" one witness said. "It was about a hundred metres from the ground, screaming through the sky like a thing in torment". US officials said the pilot had used a "bad job" but had not realised his aircraft had collided with the ski lift. A spokesman at Aviano said all low level flights had been suspended.

The smashed bright yellow



A EA-6B Prowler: the jets are part of Nato's Bosnia force

cable car ended crumpled on the tree-lined snow on Mount Cermis, above the resort of Cavalese, near Trento, with parts of the twisted cabin wreckage scattered across the mountain. Fausto Colasanti, a police official in Cavalese, said that there were no survivors and the bodies were still being identified. "It is a terrible scene of carnage."

Officials said that the cable car, which can hold 40 people, had been taking the skiers — most of them German — down the 6000ft mountain when the disaster happened at 3.25 pm. "If it had happened in the



Map showing the location of the cable car accident

Nato air operations. The Pentagon offered no initial explanation as to why the aircraft should have been flying at an altitude low enough to hit the cable. "We are still investigating the matter," said a Marine Corps official.

The Prowler is an airborne command and control aircraft used to jam enemy signals electronically. It can also fire anti-radiation missiles to destroy ground radar installations. It was not armed at the time of the collision.

The unit from which the plane came had just been cited for completing 60,000 hours of

Continued on page 2, col 6

### Bart's wins fight to stay open

Bart's Hospital in London has won its battle against closure.

The 800-year-old St Bartholomew's will live on as a centre of excellence for research, teaching and the treatment of cardiac and cancer patients. Page 4

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## Unemployment to jump by a third

By JILL SHERMAN AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNEMPLOYMENT is set to leap by a one-off 500,000 as a result of a new method of calculating the jobless, the Government announced yesterday. The number of people out of work has fallen steadily over the past two years to 1.4 million, but in April the Government is expected to announce an increase of more than 33 per cent to 1.9 million.

In Opposition, Labour repeatedly attacked the figures used by the Tories for failing to give a true picture. They accused the Conservative Government of artificially cutting jobs figures by excluding large numbers of people who were eligible for benefit, including the over-55s, under-17s and part-time workers. Yesterday Andrew Smith, the Em-

ployment Minister, said that the new system would include people actively seeking work who might not qualify for unemployment benefit from April.

Labour officials maintained that the Government had changed the system of calculating jobs as soon as it could after coming to power. The timing of the decision, however, could not be more convenient for the Government as a rise in jobless figures now is useful on two counts. Gordon Brown is already facing criticism for pumping £3 billion into his programme to get 18 to 25-year-olds off benefit and into work because unemployment is falling rapidly. In addition, unemployment is expected to

rise later this year as a result of other economic factors, so if the Government had postponed the change in figures it would have doubled the impact of the rise.

The change in methodology follows an independent review by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Mr Smith said that there would be no change to the definition of unemployment, but monthly bulletins would focus on those in work, those seeking work and the economically inactive.

The ONS said it would calculate the monthly Labour Force Survey figure by using a rolling estimate based on the quarterly survey of households. It will also continue to publish the existing claimant count measure. "We are com-

mitted to achieving high and stable levels of employment. The package of improvements announced today will help us in that aim. It will also give people the opportunity to judge our performance," said Mr Smith. "This independent review was needed to restore public confidence in figures that had become widely discredited."

David Willets, the Shadow Employment Spokesman, said the Government had still failed to include in the new figures participants in its own schemes, such as the new Welfare to Work programme. He said this was the main criticism the Labour had made, while in opposition, of the Conservatives' method of counting unemployment.

### FTSE value tops £1 trillion mark

THE value of companies in the FTSE 100 stock market index has risen above £1 trillion (£1,000 billion) for the first time. It follows a wave of takeover bids, including yesterday's surprise £1.68 billion hostile bid by GUS for Argos, the catalogue retailer. The FTSE 100 rose 13.8 to close at 5612.8. Page 23

### Late tax fines could hit £90m

The Inland Revenue could net £90 million in penalties from taxpayers who missed Saturday's deadline for returning self-assessment forms. About 810,000 people, 70,000 partnerships and 20,000 trusts face a £100 penalty and will be charged interest on outstanding payments. Page 23

## Russians lose £1.5m in lesson on capitalism

SEVEN hundred Russian businessmen had a lesson in capitalism when they paid out £1.5 million to enrol on courses to study Western business techniques — only to discover they were part of an international fraud.

The businessmen had been sent brochures advertising training programmes at an international school of finance and management in California. But the school did not exist and had been invented by two Russian couples based at Reading Business Centre who netted £1.5 million from the scam, Isleworth Crown Court was

told yesterday. Svetlana Kouznetsova, 34, and her husband Igor Falkovsky, 36, both of east London, Michael Newman, 40, and his wife Maria Newman, 35, of Reading, Berkshire, admitted charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office.

The court heard how almost 700 businessmen in Russia responded to the advertisements and 1,450 people applied for places on the course in summer 1996. The brochure claimed sponsorship by "the Roosevelt Foundation USA" and was produced by Investco Corporation with addresses in New-

port Beach, California and Luxembourg.

Anthony Mitchell, for the prosecution, described the scam as "simple and undoubtedly very profitable". He said: "In offices all over the Russian states in the summer of 1996 envelopes arrived containing brochures advertising training programmes for upper and middle management at an international school of finance and management in California. The only cost to the applicant would be the air fares and hotel expenses.

"The money sent totalled \$2.4 mil-

lion — or £1.5 million. But there were no courses. The applicants would turn up at the hotel in Russia to meet a guide. There would be nobody there."

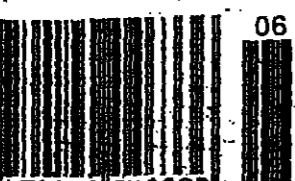
Applications for courses had to be submitted by mail or fax. "They were sent to accommodation addresses in California and Belgium and from there they would be sent to the Business Centre at Reading," Mr Mitchell told the court.

Declining to order pre-sentence reports, Judge Miller remanded the four until April 3 when he will sentence them and rule on their finances.

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All comparisons against BT standard base rates for 1 minute call including VAT. FT rates effective from 12th January 1998.



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# Cop goes soft on the trail of an open and shut case

With some aplomb, Frank Dobson yesterday took the role of a classic Hard Cop. Soft Cop routine. The Tories had played Hard Cop with London's hospitals. They talked tough and meant about the unspeakable things they would do to Guy's and Bart's. We quaked in our boots.

But now — exit Tory Hard Cop: enter new Labour Soft Cop, who dims the lamp and motions us to a comfy seat. "Calm down, the Hard Cop has been seen off. His threats

were out of order. Now let's try to sort this out amicably." The Health Secretary told MPs that his plans for London's hospitals were nothing like as vicious as those Tory bullies had threatened. In its relief, the Commons was prepared to overlook the small print and come quietly.

Cuddly, bearded Mr Dobson lacked the cigarettes and brandy that Soft Cops customarily hand out. Instead he brought some light reading: his Action plan for high quality London health services; and the Turnberg Re-

port. The Tory Hard Cop had threatened London with a cut in beds, Mr Dobson withdrew the threat. He didn't promise more beds, but...

The nasty Tories had talked about closing a number of hospitals. But Mr Dobson was lifting that threat. He would be "bringing together" some of these hospitals. Ah.

Tory bullies had proposed closing the Accident and Emergency Unit at Guy's Hospital. But Dobson had "re-evaluated". This would be "closely monitored," with "contingency plans..." to pro-



vide additional services if patient numbers are higher than expected." Nice Mr Dobson did not spell it out: Guy's A&E Unit stays shut.

The Hard Men of the Conservative Party had stilled a plan to rebuild the Royal London with 1,100 beds. Now — hooray! — the rebuilding was to be given the green light. With only 900 beds,

true, but... And now for the biggest Tory horror — boo, hiss! — to close St Bartholomew's Hospital. Today, Mr Dobson was lifting that threat.

MPs cheered. Some missed the detail. Actually, only bits of Bart's are to stay. "While the new Royal London Hospital is being built... Bart's will continue in its present role."

But, once other facilities were ready, "Bart's will concentrate its renowned specialist expertise with a focus on cancer and cardiac services".

In other words (as Dobson's Tory Shadow, John Maples, pointed out) Bart's is to close as a general hospital.

But Mr Maples had a hard time. A good, low-key performer, his talents fit him better for the role of Soft Cop himself. Instead, he must take a swing at a Health Secretary who had drawn the teeth of Maples's own party's plans. Whoever was fitted to look

Dobson's gift horse in the mouth, it was not the Conservative Party.

Maples is good at picking courtously through the small print, and his response will read well in the medical journals.

But the Chamber itself offered the Tories an unpleasant foretaste of the difficulty of making political capital from Labour's problems with the NHS. Maples struggled to be heard through the jeers of Labour MPs.

And... Soft-Cop... Dobson could do no wrong. Brian

Sedgemore (Lab, Hackney S & Shoreditch) told him: "When, writing the final paragraph of the last chapter of the history of the world, the writer looks up to the pantheon of the gods — those who have made a real contribution — the Secretary of State will be among them. Frank, you've been brilliant!"

Mr Dobson lowered eyes and voice. It was impossible, he breathed, reverentially, to exaggerate the symbolic significance of Bart's.

He had saved the symbol. Never mind the rest.

# Prison officers' fury as Labour keeps strike ban

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

BRITAIN'S overcrowded jails face the threat of disruption following the decision by the Government yesterday to uphold a ban on industrial action by 29,000 prison officers.

Their leaders warned ministers that they would get around the ban by protesting that the health and safety of their colleagues was being put at risk by the rising jail population — which has reached 63,604 inmates.

Last night the Prison Officers' Association accused the Government of "betrayal" after Jack Straw told them that he would not reverse Conservative legislation outlawing industrial action by the union.

It has called an emergency special delegate conference later this month at which there will be demands for action over the jails crisis and protests over the Home Secretary's decision.

Mr Straw told the union that public safety could be put at risk if large numbers of police had to be diverted from their normal duties to act as jailers in the event of a disruptive industrial action.

He said: "If disruptive industrial action takes place within the service it can have wholly unacceptable consequences. Indeed, in my judgment, industrial action can

have no more place within the prison service than it can within the police service."

He added: "The disruption of proper and effective running of prisons by industrial action cannot be allowed to undermine public confidence in the prison service as a whole."

In his letter to the POA, which lost its right to take industrial action in the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, the Home Secretary suggested independent arbitration could be used to settle certain national issues.

Ron Adams, vice chairman of the POA's national executive, said: "We are very angry with Jack Straw. When Labour was in opposition promises were given to this association that should Labour gain power, then our trades union rights would be returned to us. They have reneged on this promise completely."

Mr Straw's decision to uphold the ban on strike action came as he announced a £1.5 million package to help young prisoners aged 18-24 join the Government's Welfare to Work programme. Two thousand prisoners at 11 jails who are in the last two months of their sentences will be offered intensive job skills

training for 15 hours a week in an effort to help them find employment and cut the risk that they will return to crime on release.

The training will include literacy and numeracy skills, advice on seeking work and preparing for an interview. The pilot project will run for a year before the Government considers extending it to all 135 jails in which an estimated 12,000 young offenders would be eligible for the programme.

"For me, Welfare to Work is not just about improving employability, it is also a crime prevention strategy," Mr Straw said in a speech at the Prison Service annual conference in Harrogate.

"Release from custody is a vulnerable time and gaining a job on the outside — and just as important keeping it — can be a vital ingredient in setting back into the community and avoiding going back to crime."

The 11 jails and YOIs selected for the project are Cardiff, Deebolt near Durham, Glen Parva near Leicester, High Down at Sutton, Huntercombe near Henley-on-Thames, Lancaster Farms at Lancaster, Moorland at Doncaster, New Hall at Wakefield, Onley at Rugby, Portland in Dorset, and Stokeheath in Shropshire.

# Rush for Diana stamps swamps Post Office

By Emma Wilkins

HUNDREDS of admirers of Diana, Princess of Wales, waited in the street outside a tiny village post office yesterday to buy a unique first-day cover set of stamps in her memory.

Since the maximum capacity of Great Brington Post Office, near the Althorp estate where Diana is buried, is just four people, the queue for the five Zip Royal Mail stamps released yesterday was constant throughout the day. The £10 first-day covers were franked "Great Brington" and decorated with a picture of Althorp's main gates.

The stamps, which were released nationally yesterday, sparked one of the busiest trading days in Post Office history. Demand for the set, each stamp showing a different photograph of Diana, was "staggering", a Post Office spokesman said.

Post Offices up and down the country had taken on extra staff to cope with the rush and "tens of millions" of stamps had been snapped up, he added.

Ian Boulton, of stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons, predicted that the set would be the biggest-selling of all time — beating the 415 million Coronation stamps sold in 1953 and the 87 million sold in 1981 to mark the Royal Wedding. In Great Brington, a party



Cover girl: Christine Whitley with a stack of the first-day covers of Diana stamps

of Italian tourists from Genoa stood sandwiched between two housewives from Nottingham and a grandmother from Bedford. A television camera crew added to the crush inside the post office where the Princess came as a teenager to buy sweets.

Christine Whitley, the postmistress, was overwhelmed and delighted. She plans to

donate half of her estimated £60,000 profits to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

"I am rushed off my feet. The queue doesn't seem to die down for more than a few minutes at a time," she said. "The phone has been ringing constantly."

Mrs Whitley has received 1,000 telephone orders from

all over the world after her brother-in-law advertised on the Internet.

Nicola Cowan, 34, from Nottingham, bought six sets of stamps. "I felt a need to come here because it's where Diana lived and was happy. I feel I am walking in her footsteps and seeing all the things that she saw," Mrs Cowan said.

# Watchdogs call for simpler procedure

The Government was urged to conduct a "spring-clean" of the various commissioners, ombudsmen and regulators who deal with complaints from members of the public. Two senior watchdogs said MPs there was a danger of the country being "top heavy" and, particularly with new Freedom of Information legislation, people would be confused.

Michael Buckley, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, called for a distinct "one-stop shop" to champion citizens' rights, including access to information. Elizabeth France, the Data Protection Registrar, also called for a single route for access to information so procedures would be simpler for the public. She said: "We are presenting a confusing picture."

# Majority favour small hospitals

Three quarters of the population are strongly against closing smaller hospitals to save money in order to provide more efficient larger regional hospitals, according to a nationwide survey. Almost two thirds are ready to pay an extra 2p tax in the pound to increase spending on the National Health Service. MORI's poll of more than 4,500 adults throughout the UK found that health spending was more important than education.

Bart's reprieve, page 4

# Director attacks Labour on arts

Sir Peter Hall, the theatre director and Labour supporter, yesterday accused the Government of "dumbing down Britain" by reducing arts teaching in primary schools. Just days after he embarrassed the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, with an attack on the Government's arts funding, said the Government had taken "music, art and drama off the priority list in primary schools, which I think is awful and will lead to the dumbing down of the nation."

# Balloon attempt hangs by thread

The attempt by Breitling Orbiter to become the first balloon to fly non-stop around the world was hanging by a thread last night with faint hopes that Chinese authorities might reconsider their decision to deny permission to fly over China. British, Belgian and Swiss diplomats have been involved in negotiations with the Chinese. Approval by China would allow the balloon to rise from the jetstream and fly towards the coast of California at up to 150 mph.

# TV showcase for young musicians

The breakfast television company GMTV is to provide daily three-minute slots for four weeks to showcase young musicians. The offer comes after the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber said in a speech in Switzerland that young British instrumentalists received so little encouragement that in 20 years all soloists were likely to come from the Far East. Mr Lloyd Webber is to meet Peter McHugh, GMTV's director of programming, on his return from Davos.

# Airlines challenge curbs on noise

By Arthur Leathley

THE world's biggest airlines are taking British ministers to court over plans to cut airport noise levels.

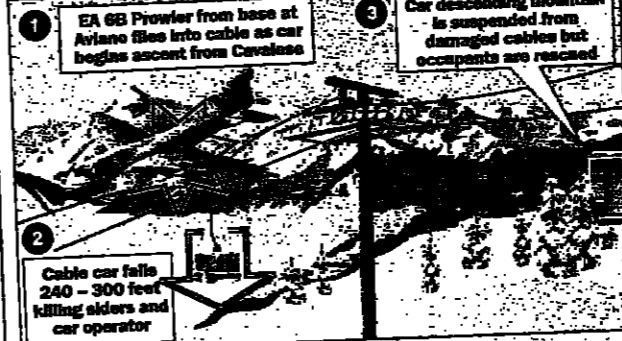
The airlines say that many long haul flights will not be able to use Heathrow, costing them hundreds of millions of pounds each year.

Carriers across Europe and the Far East are dismayed at the Government's decision to ignore an earlier court ruling and press for lower noise levels at Heathrow, Gatwick, and Stansted airports.

The International Air Transport Association, which is mounting the legal challenge, yesterday accused ministers of being "totally unsympathetic" to their warnings that Heathrow will lose large amounts of business to other European airports such as Madrid and Charles de Gaulle in Paris, which are both trying to attract business away from Britain.

The legal moves will further delay two-year old government plans to reduce the noise levels at the three airports. The previous Conservative Government put off making a final decision after Iata won a judicial review of the proposals. However, senior airline figures say that meetings with Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, and his officials have failed to resolve the dispute.

The fight against the government plans is being led by British Airways, whose chief executive, Bob Ayling, is a close adviser to Tony Blair.



# 20 skiers killed as cable car falls to ground

Continued from page 1

"accident free flying". A spokesman at Aviano said the pilot managed to return to base and make an emergency landing, although the collision had damaged the plane's tail. None of the crew was injured.

Giorgio Rinaldi, a rescue worker at Calavese, said visibility on the mountain had been "excellent" at the time of the disaster. Local residents said they had complained "again and again" about low level flying by American warplanes.

"We get them roaring through the sky day after day" one angry woman told Italian television. "We've had enough of these war games."

Massimo Bruti, the deputy Defence Minister, said US forces had "very strict" rules for low flying, with planes flying at between three hundred and fifty and fifteen hundred metres.

At such altitudes pilots were able to see the ground and avoid obstacles without depending on flight controllers. Signor Bruti said the ski lift at Calavese was not a new instal-

lation and was clearly marked on all maps and charts. An Italian judicial inquiry into the accident had begun as well as a US military investigation.

Local hospitals put on alert, but ski resort officials said everyone in the cable car was killed instantly when it hit the ground. Local residents said they had complained for years about low level flying in the Alpine valleys. Calavese has a record of tragedy: in 1976 a cable car disaster attributed to the failure of automatic safety systems left 42 dead.

The area where tragedy struck is a spectacularly beautiful mountain range whose lower slopes are lined with firs and larch trees. The Val di Fassa is renowned for the quality of its wood, from which Stradivarius violins were made.

Once remote, with an autonomous parliament which met on a circle of stone benches in one of Calavese's cobble streets, the mountains have become a favourite area for skiers in the winter and hikers in the summer, and draw thousands of foreign tourists.

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# Sheep-dip settlement

A SHEPHERD has received £80,000 compensation for damage to his health allegedly caused by sheep dip (Michael Hornsby writes).

Lancashire County Council has agreed to pay the sum to Robert Shepherd, 62, from Crook, Co Durham, in an out-of-court settlement of a case brought on his behalf by Unison, the public service

union. Mr Shepherd was employed by the council as a farm manager at the Lancashire College of Agriculture, where he was responsible for dipping the sheep on the college's working farm twice a year. He became aware of ill-health in 1979 and his condition worsened over the next ten years until he was forced to retire in 1991.

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# Racehorse trainer rejects 'cheating' gibe



Lynda Ramsden at the High Court yesterday

## The Sporting Life

The Sporting Life is being sued over an editorial, Lin Jenkins reports

A LEADING racehorse trainer, her husband and a champion jockey yesterday began a High Court claim for damages after they were accused of cheating by *The Sporting Life* in a "savage verbal onslaught".

Lynda Ramsden and her husband Jack, a partner in the business, and the jockey Kieren Fallon, maintain that they were libelled in an editorial after Top Cees won the £40,000 Chester Cup.

The horse had been the subject of a stewards' inquiry after its previous run over 1 1/4 miles when it was suggested that it was deliberately not trying or "running on its merits".

However, Mrs Ramsden, 48, had been cleared by the regulators of racing, the Jockey Club, of breaking Rule 151 by instructing the jockey not to win or of giving him inadequate instruction for him to do so in the Swaffham Handicap at Newmarket in April 1995.

When the five-year-old won the Chester Cup over 2 1/4 miles on May 10 at odds of 8-1 it attracted considerable comment. *The Sporting Life* accused Mrs Ramsden of having "put two fingers up at the Jockey Club".

A strongly worded editorial

in the same paper accused all three of cheating the punters in what Patrick Milner, QC, for the Ramsdens and their jockey, described as "a savage onslaught where the core allegation was that they were cheats — they had conspired to cheat the public by clearly not trying at Newmarket".

Written by Alastair Down, the editorial addressed "The steady and deeply unpopular victory". It described the reaction as Top Cees' entered the winner's enclosure as "The damning patter of perhaps three sets of hands clapping — all hands presumably attached to the relations by blood or marriage to Jack and Lynda

Ramsden." It asked why was there outrage on the course and in betting shops, angry phone calls to Chester and calls for action on television. "The answer is simple. It was one of those rare occasions on a British racecourse when the stench of being short-changed was so palpable that it goaded even the poor put-upon British punter into a genuine display of anger."

It said that when the horse finished a "tenderly handled fifth" at Newmarket previously "It was perceived by virtually all observers that the horse was 'not off' or to put it in plain English, cheating."

Mr Milner said that Mr

Ramsden had not backed the horse, but put his money on the horse that finished second. "If this was some kind of coup being set up you would expect Mr Ramsden to be in the forefront of it. He does gamble on horses and gamble successfully."

Mrs Ramsden told the court that the horse had previously won on the Flat only over a mile before going hurdling in the winter of 1994/95. She said he was a "cunning horse" who was a "bit of a monkey" often dropping his lad, sometimes refusing to go on the gallops and appearing to need to be gelded.

She said it was by no means clear he would make the distance over 1 1/4 miles when he was entered for the race at Newmarket.

Asked if she had told the jockey not to win, she replied "Certainly not."

Mrs Ramsden, of Thirk, North Yorkshire, has been the leading woman Flat trainer for the past three years. Asked if she had put two fingers up at the Jockey Club she replied: "Certainly not. They could take my licence away if they thought I was doing that."



Jack Ramsden and Kieren Fallon, who are also claiming damages over the newspaper editorial



Racing, page 39



The Chester Cup, at the centre of the court action

## Mother tells how baby fell from car

By KATHERYN KNIGHT

A MOTHER has described to police how her 19-month-old son fell to his death from her lap in a moving car. Callum Hadley tumbled from the 24-year-old family Range Rover after the passenger door swung open and his mother Paula Oakley, 33, lost her grip on him as she tried to close it.

Moments earlier, Callum had been strapped into a baby seat in the back but Ms Oakley had lifted him on to her knee when he started crying. He suffered fatal head injuries as he fell onto the road and was declared dead at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary 45 minutes after the accident in Allenton, Derbyshire, on Monday afternoon.

Yesterday the couple, who had been due to get married on Saturday, were being comforted by relatives at their home half a mile from the scene of the accident. Ms Oakley's sister, Elaine Lawson, said: "She is incoherent with grief."

Police said that the door had apparently flown open as Callum's father, Jason Hadley, 26, a soldier, took a sharp bend. A spokesman said that speed was not an issue and vehicle experts were examining the vehicle to find out exactly how the boy could have fallen out.

An inquest was opened and adjourned yesterday by Farnan Turlough, the Derby and South Derbyshire deputy coroner.

## Boys cleared of rape after flawed charges

By ADRIAN LEE

TWO ten-year-old boys, the youngest to be charged in Britain with rape, were cleared yesterday after a judge ruled that their alleged victim was improperly questioned by a woman police officer.

"A third boy, also aged ten, who, it had been alleged, acted as lookout, walked free from the Old Bailey after he was acquitted of indecent assault."

But the two ten-year-olds and a fourth boy, an 11-year-old cousin of the alleged victim, are still on trial charged with indecently assaulting the girl, then nine, in a lavatory block at their West London primary school.

Mrs Justice Bracewell told the jury that there was a "fundamental flaw" in the rape charges and directed them to return not guilty verdicts.

The judge said the alleged victim had made no rape allegation during a 45-minute video-recorded interview with a woman police officer. When questioning appeared to be over, the officer re-entered the room and asked a question that was "both leading and wholly improper. In effect, it put words into (the girl's) mouth."

The allegations of rape were, after that, tainted and it would not be proper for the charges to go before the jury. The judge also ruled that the girl had not positively identified one of the accused boys as having raped her. Of the boy

who was cleared of indecent assault, the judge said there was "lack of participation, lack of evidence of his state of knowledge of what was intended by the others, his distress as events unfolded, his refusal to take part in any incident and his express wish not to hurt (the girl) because she was his friend."

As the verdict was announced the boy smiled and was ushered from the court by his mother and stepfather. At the opening of the case, it had been alleged that he stood guard and laughed as the girl was sexually molested. He later said that the other boys had done a "gross thing" to the girl.

But in her evidence the girl described how the other boys swore at the boy because he refused to take part. "They were cursing him because he said no. They wanted him to be on top of me."

His headmistress told the court she had asked him why he was there. "I wanted to be in their gang," he said.

The court was also told that a few days before the incident the boy's mother had considered removing him from the school but had been urged by the headmistress to "give it another week". He was a keen student but immature, the court was told.

After the judge's ruling, lawyers for the three remaining defendants offered no evidence. The hearing continues.

## After extra time, Germans bid for 1966 victory medal

By DANIEL MCGRODY

THEY snatched the football from under our noses after the 1966 World Cup Final. Now the Germans are trying to grab the first winner's medal to be put up for auction.

The agent for the right-back George Cohen, one of England's victorious heroes, said last night that the only "serious bid" so far was £100,000 offer from a German businessman who wanted it for her father, who attended the Wembley final and would regard it as "justice" for what he still believed was the wrong result when England won 4-2.

The agent, Dave Davies, said that losing the medal to Germany would be seen as more of an indignity than mislaying the orange football from the 1966 final.

At the final whistle the German forward, Helmut Haller, stuffed it inside his shirt. The ball was reclaimed years later, after Richard Branson paid money to Haller's family. Since Mr Cohen, 57, put his medal up for



Cohen has kept his medal in the bank

an auction to boost his pension fund, politicians have been campaigning for lottery funds to be used to buy it. Bobby Moore's first wife, Tina, has also announced that she is planning to sell his collection of medals and trophies in a £2 million deal.

Mr Cohen, a property developer in Kent, has kept his medal in a bank. He felt that if it was to be sold, this would be a good year, due to World Cup finals in France. Mr Davies said: "We have

had all sorts of silly offers but the one definite bid is from a German woman". The auctioneers, Christie's, predicted that Mr Cohen's medal could fetch a record £80,000, but Mr Davies said that the mystery woman is ready to pay at least £100,000. He insisted that "the German factor" was not a hype to inflate the price.

The Football Association insists that it will not be making a bid, and the National Football Museum which opens in Preston next year says it cannot afford to bid. Mr Davies suggests that Mohamed Al Fayed, current owner of Cohen's old team, could outbid the Germans for the posterity.

Mr Al Fayed is out of the country but sources say he will not enter a bidding war. A close aide said last night: "If he is interested then he will move when he thinks fit."

"But perhaps it is for England's football fans to show their desire to keep the medal here by beginning a fund raising campaign."

Football food, page 8

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# Bart's reprieved for heart and cancer care



Nurse Sinead Graham, left, and Sister Caroline Anderson. "I'm sure there will be some celebrations later"

BART's won its battle against closure yesterday when the Government kept a pre-election pledge by Tony Blair to save the 800-year-old London hospital.

St Bartholomew's, known as the "mother hospital", is to survive as a centre of research, teaching and the treatment of cardiac and cancer patients, leaving the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel in the East End to handle emergencies and acute cases in the area.

Announcing the decision to cheering Labour MPs in the Commons, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said: "Bart's will be saved. We will not countenance the closure of that great hospital, which has served the people of London for 875 years."

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said keeping Bart's open would cost money that would be better spent on primary care. "This review and decision haven't been about saving Bart's," he said. "They have been about saving your face."

The recommendation to

keep the Smithfield hospital open came in a report on the healthcare of London drawn up by a committee under Sir Leslie Turnberg, past President of the Royal College of Physicians. The report sets out a ten-year strategy for improving medical services in the capital, which the Government is to fund with an extra £1 billion during this Parliament.

The main thrust of the report is the recommendation that there should be one regional office for the capital instead of the present health authority divisions.

The need for more GPs is seen as urgent, given that the number working in the capital has fallen by 1 per cent since 1990 while the population has risen by 1 per cent. Contrary to earlier studies, Sir Leslie found no evidence that

London had more acute beds available than the average for England. Although it had 17,400 acute beds, up to 2,800 were used by non-Londoners being treated in teaching hospitals. On that basis, the report says, "further bed closures should not be planned".

The closure of Bart's was recommended in a review of London's health needs drawn up for the Conservative Government five and a half years ago by Sir Leslie Tomlinson. He argued that Bart's served only a small population and it would be more efficient to group all the services onto the Royal London site in a 1,200-bed hospital.

Bart's was already being run down and the accident and emergency service had been shut when Labour won the election, and Sir Leslie was asked to carry out a further

review. A 1,200-bed hospital, his committee said, was larger than any development seen in England for many years. It would mean a loss of flexibility, the Whitechapel site was too cramped and the hospital's construction likely to be complicated.

There was a continuing need for Bart's services, teaching and research and "we are concerned that these could be impaired by a long, slow, erosion before new facilities are built at Whitechapel in seven or eight years' time".

Other recommendations approved by the Government include bringing together on one site University College Hospital, the Middlesex Hospital, the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women. The new £160 million University College Hospital to be built on the Euston Road will have 640 beds in a five-storey building, with a 15-storey tower block at one end. Queen Charlotte's Hospital in West London is to close and its services transferred to the Hammersmith Hospital.

Labour preserves teaching role for the London hospital condemned by the Tories. Ian Murray reports

## End of waiting is tonic for staff and patients

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

BEHIND the ancient facade of Bart's, news of the reprieve was flashed to the hundreds of staff electronically via the e-mail and computer messages. All day, hospital wards had been rife with rumours, but by late afternoon, announcements on staff computers and radio bulletins at patients' bedsides confirmed the hospital gossip.

As notices of department meetings to discuss the future were posted on bulletin boards, nurses and doctors said their main feeling was one of relief that they had finally been given a decision about their future. "It means people can finally start making plans," said Deborah Leonard, a 26-year-old cancer nurse. "Obviously we're thrilled. This is a morale boost for everybody."

Her colleague, Kathryn Saunders, 23, said the news would be a comfort to patients as well as staff. "Staff and patients here have lived through a lot of changes. This will give them something to hold onto for the future."

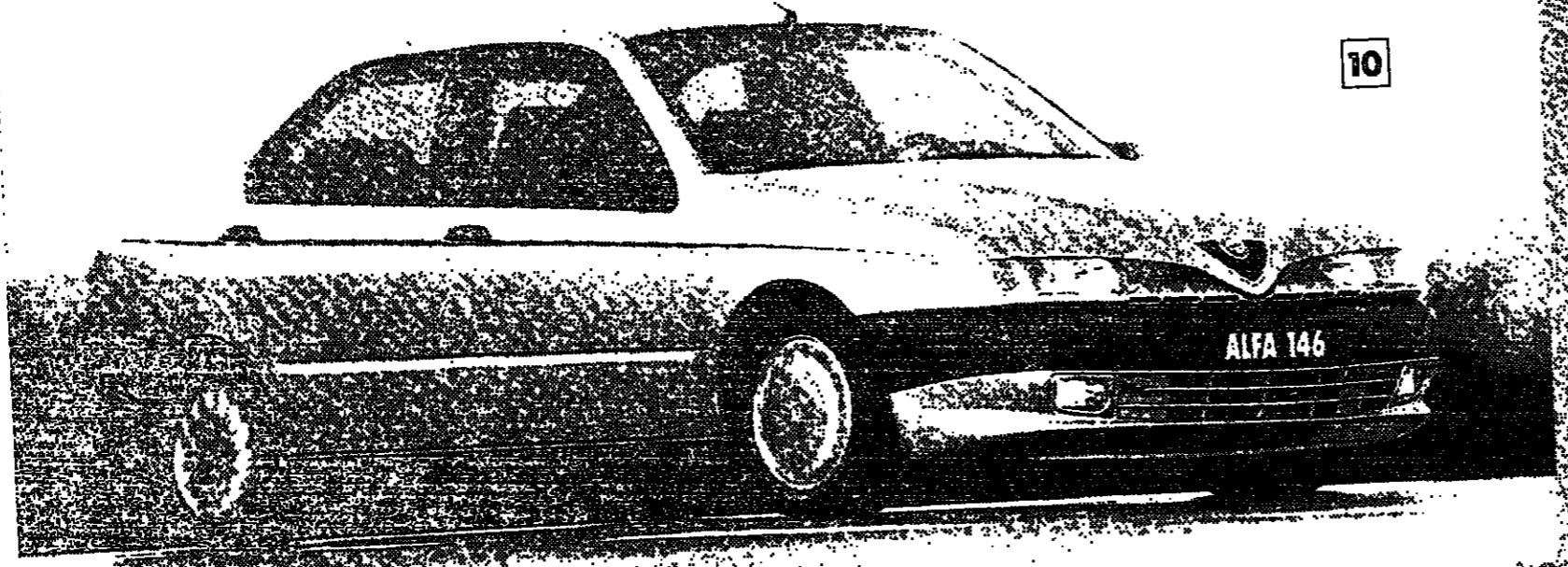
In the newly refurbished cancer unit, Sister Caroline Anderson said: "We've just found out officially, so we're all letting it sink in. It's business as usual, but I'm sure

there will be some celebrations later."

However, John Monson, a doctor and chairman of the Joint Medical Council, sounded a note of caution. "Everything has its price and inevitably that price is that we will have to split our revenue resources across the hospital," he said. "We are already desperately short of funding, so we are hoping that the Government will recognise the particular needs of the poor people of east London."

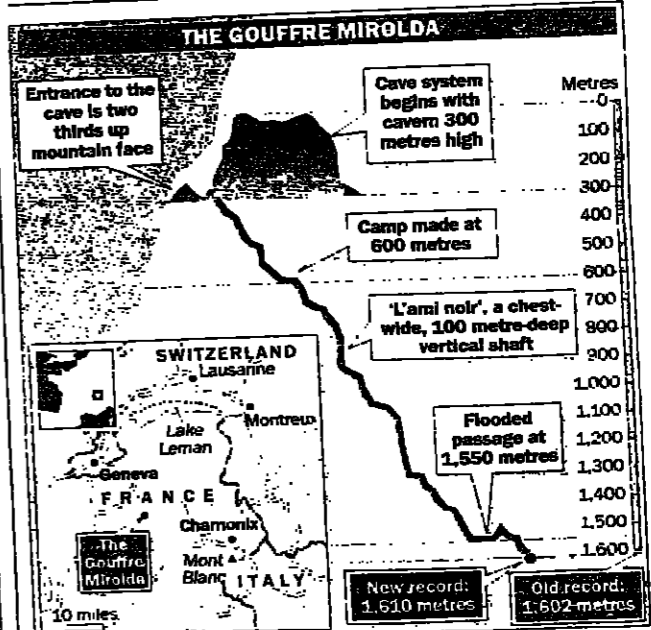
At their customary positions for waving placards outside the hospital, members of the Save Bart's campaign, established more than five years ago, described the announcement as a milestone. "We are delighted at this positive outcome. We want to continue our campaign to have the A & E department reopened, but this is a step in the right direction," said Wendy Mead.

A hospital spokeswoman said: "We are having to be careful because, while some people are over the moon, others are going to be a little more depressed because they don't see it as the best resolution. But, in general, the fact that a fairly positive decision has been made at all is good for morale."



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## Potholers reach depth of success

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

FOUR British potholers have set a world record by descending almost a mile.

In a three-day expedition in the French Alps, Ged Campion, from Walsall, Graham Salmon, from Preston, and Bruce Bensley and Stewart Muir, both from Wolverhampton, reached the lowest recorded depth, 1,610 metres, beating the previous record by eight metres. Yesterday Mr Muir, 34, a design engineer, said they were planning a further descent into the cave, Gouffre Mirolda, between Geneva and Chamonix.

The previous record of 1,602 metres was set locally by a French team. The British group teamed up with four French cavers who had diving equipment to get past a flooded passage that had defeated previous attempts.

Mr Muir said: "Although we descended almost a mile, we actually scaled around three or four miles at least, because you are often moving horizontally or diagonally along ledges and passage ways. One of the worst bits is a descent known as *Lami noir*, or black friend, which is two pieces of rock only a chest-width apart, which you have to slide down for 100 metres."

"It's an odd feeling being so low down, but it's a real challenge. You have to commit totally. If something goes wrong, you have to save yourself. That danger makes you feel very alert. Some of the scenery is so beautiful, it is worth the risks."



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for care



Chavasse, centre, excelled at sport and was awarded a Blue for running at Oxford.

# Missing file adds to mystery over unsung war hero

THE door of history appears to have finally slammed shut on one of the great mysteries of the First World War. Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse was one of only a handful of men ever to win the Victoria Cross twice, and the only man to do so in the Great War. But he was never promoted beyond captain, and has remained almost unheard of, one of the greatest unsung heroes of the century.

**Damian Whitworth on a holder of two VCs who never achieved due recognition**

"I'm very disappointed and can't understand why these particular records have been lifted out of the archives where they ought to be," said Mrs Clayton, who had been told that she would be able to see Chavasse's service record yesterday morning, when she travelled down from Liverpool to address a conference on the newly released documents. Mrs Clayton, a retired academic who wrote Chavasse, Double VC in an attempt to give him the place in history she believes he deserves, said that his life was like something from *Chariots of Fire*. He was born in 1884, and his father became Bishop of Liverpool six years later. He and his twin brother, Christopher, who later entered the Church of England, excelled academically and at sport. At Oxford,



Captain Noel Chavasse, left, was awarded his first Victoria Cross for saving 20 badly wounded men at Guillemont in August 1916. His girlfriend, Gladys, lost her love a year later after he was wounded at Passchendaele. He continued to treat the injured until he died, and was awarded his second VC posthumously.

where he took a first in Natural Sciences from Trinity College, both brothers were awarded Blues for running and went on to run for England in the London Olympics in 1908. He then studied medicine and joined the army as medical officer to the Liverpool Scottish. When war broke out he served in the front line with the 1st Battalion, becoming a captain in 1915. He was a prodigious letter writer, and, in his correspondence with members of his family, reveals that in some ways he was an innocent abroad. He wrote that he wanted to see all the brothels

in local villages closed down and was keen for his men to indulge in more suitable diversions, to which end he played Handel's *Messiah* to them on a gramophone. "His naivety showed again when he had a brainwave for curing trenchfoot," Mrs Clayton said. "He thought he would rub the men's feet with their rum ration and couldn't understand what other use they could have for it."

Chavasse has not had the recognition that might be expected. In his native Liverpool a park and a building development are named after him, but he is otherwise virtually unknown outside academic circles. Even Mrs Clayton said she only stumbled across him because her daughter attended Liverpool College, where Chavasse had been a pupil. "He's definitely not as well known as he should be. I'd lived in Liverpool all my life but hadn't realised how important he was," she said. "A lot of VCs were plucked from the trenches and used for

recruitment and publicity, but he wasn't. It was almost as if they didn't want to know. "I was hoping to discover from the service record why he had never been promoted. He was made a captain in 1915 and was still a captain when he died in 1917. That seems a long time for anyone to remain a captain, let alone someone who had already won a VC and whose father was a good friend of Earl Derby, who was head of recruitment."

The crucial clue may lie in Chavasse's letters, which were kept by his family. Mrs Clayton said that the correspondence reveals that he did not always see eye to eye with the army hierarchy. In one letter to his mother he reported how his Divisional General had been "very angry" about a report Chavasse had written criticising the way the Army was handling the spread of venereal disease among the troops. On another occasion he described the higher com-

manders as so aloof that he doubted they understood the bastards. He even tore into the persons, whom he called "hermaphrodites" and described as idle and "criminal" for taking leave every three months at the expense of infantrymen. Whether or not this was the reason that he was passed over for promotion, Mrs Clayton could not say for sure. However, because the family kept every letter he wrote and not one of them mentions him being offered promotion and turning it down, she is certain that he was never offered higher office. When Mrs Clayton asked to see the service record yesterday, the Public Records Office appeared as surprised as anybody that it was not there. "It isn't listed anywhere which suggests that somebody may have taken the files. It's very frustrating," said a spokesman. Checks with the Ministry of Defence, which originally held the papers, had proved fruitless.

## CITATION DETAILS BRAVERY IN THE TRENCHES

### 'A devoted and gallant officer'

THE bravery of Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse was exceptional. He was slightly wounded during an attack on Guillemont in August 1916, for which he received his first Victoria Cross. The citation described how he had tended to the wounded all day, while under heavy fire, and during the night had searched for wounded on the ground in front of



The medals awarded to Captain Chavasse

the enemy lines. It read: "The following night he took up a party of trusty volunteers, rescued three wounded men from a shell hole 25 yards from the

enemy's trench, buried the bodies of two officers and collected many identity discs although fired on by bombs and machine guns. Altogether he saved

the lives of some 20 badly wounded men, besides the ordinary cases which passed through his hands. His courage and self-sacrifice were beyond praise." At Passchendaele, in July 1917, Chavasse was gravely wounded when a shell from retreating Germans entered his dressing station. He continued to seek out and treat the wounded for two days but eventually died of his wounds. For his efforts he was awarded his second Victoria Cross posthumously. Chavasse was described as a "devoted and gallant officer".

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**Free with petrol: a chance to help save the world**

**Nick Nuttall on how consumers can offset the damage they cause**

MOTORISTS are being offered a chance to offset their contribution to global warming with a tree-planting scheme funded from purchases of petrol. Tesco is pioneering the idea launched by a group of environmentalists. For each litre sold at some of its service stations, 1p will be used to fund a tree that will plant trees and support energy-saving schemes across the world. The supermarket chain is urging other petrol retailers to back the idea. The agreement with Tesco initially covers purchases of low-benzene petrol at 29 London stores. Low-benzene petrol reduces emissions of smog-forming chemicals. A spokesman said that Tesco would not be charging any more for the brand during the three-month trial, which might have a negligible effect. "But can you imagine the impact if all petrol retailers in Britain took this up, and it was extended to Europe? We're talking about significant impacts on a global level." Mike Mason, director of the Oxford-based Carbon Storage Trust, said that the money raised from Tesco petrol sales was earmarked for a tree-planting scheme at Mount Elgon in Uganda, and more funds may then be used in the Carrifran valley, near Moffat, Dumfriesshire. The trust is in negotiation with carmakers, airlines and utility companies to offer similar warranties. Someone seek-

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Branson libel case leaves unanswered questions over the awarding of the National Lottery contract

Former minister embroiled in row over GTech

BY ANDREW PIERCE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY PEER

A TORY frontbencher in the House of Lords was identified last night as a key figure in GTech's campaign to beat Richard Branson to the National Lottery contract.

Lord Moynihan, who is continuing to be paid £5,000 a month by GTech, the technical arm of the successful Camelot consortium, advised the company to find an "elegant way" to get Peter Davis, then the Director-General of Oflot, "off the political hook".

A GTech memorandum obtained by The Times shows that Lord Moynihan was being paid through a consultancy that Lord Moynihan was being paid through a consultancy that Lord Moynihan was being paid through a consultancy.



Moynihan: payment through consultancy

Lord Moynihan, a Tory foreign affairs spokesman in the House of Lords, has not declared any direct link with GTech in the Register of Interests. While peers are not under the same obligations as MPs, the Lords register states: "In the end it must be for the judgment of each individual Lord as to what he considers may affect the public perception of the way in which [he discharges his] Parliamentary duties."

Cousins, a senior GTech employee on March 2, 1994 only 19 days before the company's presentation to Mr Davis. The memorandum says: "On Branson: CM [Colin Moynihan] believes that nobody in Her Majesty's Government will support the Branson bid, though he agrees that we must find an elegant way to get the DG off the political hook."

view, is an awkward one for the DG to put forward. CM believes that the best argument for the DG will be to compare relevance and experience with profit differentials between us and Branson. The memo has been seized on by the Branson camp as offering the broadest evidence so far that GTech had prepared ammunition for Mr Davis. A spokesman for Mr Davis said last night: "At no time has he spoken to or met Colin Moynihan."

However, Lord Moynihan suggested changes to the amount of "windfall" profits paid back to the lottery fund by GTech to ensure they secured the lucrative contract.

The reference to windfall profits has fuelled the suspicion in the Branson camp that the GTech bid was changed after the closing date. Mr Branson said: "When this memo was written the bids were closed. Why was Colin Moynihan suggesting that more windfall profits should be ploughed back into the lottery fund? What were they thinking of? Was anything offered to get the director-general off the political hook? It is in the interests of everyone for the bid documents to be released into the public domain to clear-up the unanswered questions."

A spokesman for GTech refuted the suggestion. "It would have been impossible and illegal to change our bid. It is simply not true," he said. The memo contained an ominous warning for GTech. "CM is sure we are right that any public argument with Branson, unless developed by the media or an independent body, would be disastrous."

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US company is Camelot's lifeblood

BY JON ASHWORTH IN LONDON AND OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE NETWORK

FORCING the removal of GTech from the Camelot consortium would almost certainly spell the collapse of the National Lottery. The American company supplies lottery terminals in kit form and owns the computer software on which the network runs.

ically possible for someone to buy GTech out — as could happen if Camelot's licence is not renewed in September 2001 — but just who would provide the funding remains unclear. Guy Snowden, the chairman of GTech Corporation, holds about 1 per cent of the company, which had record sales of \$904 million (£51 million) in the year to February 22, 1997, boosting profits after tax to \$77.8 million (£47 million).

Mexico. Mr Snowden continues to be paid by GTech in America, ensuring that he will continue to profit from the success of the lottery. Shares in GTech plunged 6 per cent to a 12-month low in New York on word of Mr Snowden's resignation. Analysts on Wall Street called for Mr Snowden's resignation, saying his position had become untenable. William Schmitt, an analyst with Gerard Klauer Mattison, said: "It would be better for all if Guy Snowden left GTech. The whole issue creates a cloud of uncertainty. His presence is not helping the company."

nature of its contract with GTech, saying it rested on "a complex set of commercial relationships". Services provided by GTech include: instant-only terminals, the warranty for on-line and instant terminals, supply of software and general consultancy. Camelot owns the terminals, but not the software — making the removal of GTech far from straightforward. Someone would have to buy out GTech's 22.5 per cent shareholding in Camelot, and compensate it for the loss of its service contract. Camelot said that the American company had unparalleled expertise adding: "We want to run with the best in the world."

Change in operator could hit revenue

HISTORY has shown that changing the running of the games or the operator can result in huge losses in revenue. Between 1989 and 1992 California's lottery revenue fell 55 per cent after the operator changed the game. In the 1990s, when GTech was running the lottery in Arizona, the licence was handed to another company. When it took over the licence again sales were down and are still recovering. Since the lottery began in Britain three years ago, the Government has invested more than £4.5 billion in the good cause. Legislation to start a sixth good cause devoted to education and health projects is still going through. Recent events do not appear to have damaged public confidence so far. Sales for today's draw are up by 2 per cent.

How life became far too exciting for a dull accountant

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

AS A "respectable but boring" chartered accountant, Peter Davis was particularly ill-equipped to deal with the public savagery that followed the jury's verdict. The football fan who describes himself as solid, middle-aged and dull had looked increasingly uncomfortable with each television interview that followed. Mr Davis, 56, has had a bumpy ride at Oflot where he earned

£84,000 a year was charged with three main objectives: probity, security and maximising the money for good causes. He was berated most notably when he told a Public Accounts Committee that he had taken free flights around the US, paid for by GTech. He maintained that he wanted to save taxpayers the cost of scheduled air tickets. Mr Davis was also attacked for his social visit to the New York financier Carl Menges, head of an

investment house which has a major stake in GTech. His wife Vanessa, he argued, was a long standing friend of Mrs Menge. Last March, MPs criticised Mr Davis for failing to protect the interests of millions of lottery players. In an all-party Commons report he was upbraided for being a "less active and vigorous" public watchdog than other regulators. Head-

MAN IN THE NEWS

hunters sought to interest Mr Davis in the lottery in September 1993. Educated at Winchester and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he read law before becoming an accountant. At 26, he came sixth in the country's accountancy exams. He was taken on by Price Waterhouse, where he did a 17-year stint and was made general audit partner when

he was 32. His speciality was banks but after meeting Sir Phil Harris, the carpet tycoon and Tory fundraiser, he went to work for him. He stayed eight years at Harris as executive deputy chairman, leaving in 1987 with his share of the £386,000 pay-off to departing directors. A year later the company was sold and in 1990 it crashed with £200 million debts, putting 4,000 people out of work. He was later offered a job at the Lloyd's insur-

ance market, becoming finance director at Sturge, the biggest Lloyd's insurance underwriting group, which netted up losses of more than £1 billion through huge claims including the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Mr Davis left in March 1993. Mr Davis was deputy chairman of the Abbey National, where he played a key role in taking the building society public. He was non-executive director for 12 years until 1994.

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Sergeant fights defence chiefs on injury cash. BY TIM JONES. A BRITISH soldier who lost his leg while on peace-keeping duties in Bosnia yesterday launched a High Court challenge to the Ministry of Defence's refusal to pay him compensation. Sergeant Trevor Walker, 32, endured 13 operations after a shell fired from a Serbian tank destroyed his accommodation block in May 1995. If successful, his application could lead to scores of other claims. It was deemed ineligible by the MoD on the grounds his injuries had been sustained in "war or war like activities". The ministry's Criminal Compensation Overseas Scheme compensates soldiers injured in crimes of violence abroad. Yesterday, David Patnick, QC, argued that the attack on Sgt Walker's base was not an act of war but a criminal act of violence. He said: "What the Serbs did by firing on UN soldiers was not war or military activity. It was a criminal act which could not be dignified by bringing it into the category of armed conflict." If he said, Sgt Walker had sustained his injuries in Northern Ireland, he would have received compensation because there the Army is deemed to be assisting the police. Sgt Walker, he said, had been in Bosnia with a Royal Engineers unit helping to build a road for humanitarian and economic uses. He was not a combatant. He claimed it was "unfair and perverse" of the MoD to refuse to pay Sgt Walker, even though it would not cost the Treasury a penny as the UN said it would meet such claims. The MoD, he argued, had unfairly failed to alert serving soldiers that the scheme, introduced in 1980, would not compensate them if injured during peace-keeping duties. The challenge is funded by the Royal British Legion. Philip Sales, for the MoD, said those who were invalided out of the service received tax free and index-linked benefits of the Armed Forces pension scheme for life, and the DSS war pension. Mr Justice Latham reserved judgment. After yesterday's hearing, Sgt Walker's wife, Debbie, 32, said: "This has taken away our quality of life." The injury, she said, had meant her husband now worked as a storeman at the Royal School of Military Engineering near Gillingham, Kent, and he was unable to play properly with children Danielle, 11, and Nathan, four.

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Social workers fail to have sick husband taken into care

# Elderly couple win court battle to stay together

By PAUL WILKINSON

MARY TAYLOR thought that more than half a century of married life was something worth fighting for when her husband, Lewis, became ill with dementia.

With help from their family the couple sought to stay together, in spite of an attempt by social workers to put Mr Taylor in care. They said that he needed special help because he had Alzheimer's disease, and applied for a guardianship order on grounds of neglect.

But a judge has ruled that the Taylors can stay together at their home in Barnsley after their daughter, Margaret Dyer, put their case against plans to put Mr Taylor, who is 83, in a private nursing home. Mrs Dyer, a college catering lecturer, brought her father to a private hearing of Sheffield Crown Court to show the judge how well he was cared for.

Mrs Taylor, 73, a former factory worker, said: "I just couldn't believe what was happening. I've always looked after Lewis and he is perfectly happy here. I'm disgusted with the social services."

Back home at their three-bedroom council semi in Wombwell, South Yorkshire, as her husband warmed himself in front of a fire, Mrs Taylor told how she thought they were going to be torn apart by social workers. "I told one of the officers that they were breaking my marriage vows. They just wouldn't listen. I've been harassed and persecuted. If Lewis was an old man living on his own I could understand, but he has a home and a loving family."

They met during the Second World War on the dockside at Liverpool, the city where she was born and bred. Her husband later fought in North Africa, Italy and Yugoslavia with the Eighth Army.

They moved to Wombwell after the war and Lewis became a miner. They have lived in their present home for 34 years and have three children.

Mrs Taylor said: "We've had a happy marriage and always gone everywhere together. We used to enjoy a quiet drink at the local workmen's club and our annual holidays. We've travelled, together to Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Austria, but best of all we love Ostend. We've kept going back over the last 30 years."

Her husband, who suffered a slight stroke three years ago, has partial dementia. Their conflict with social services began last summer after Mrs Taylor arranged a week's temporary respite care at a private nursing home for her husband after he fell ill. Two months later social services officers visited their home.

Mrs Taylor said: "They told me Lewis was cold and he had not been properly fed. I didn't have a fire because it was warm. They came in the house, put a kettle on and made a cup of tea for Lewis. Our nightmare all started from that day. The social services would not leave me alone. It's no trouble for me to look after Lewis. There is always someone from the family around. He's never left alone."

"When we won the court hearing I got hold of Lewis and kissed him and his eyes

filled with tears. The judge said he couldn't see any reason why Lewis should not stay at home."

Mrs Dyer said: "The council accused us of leaving my father alone for long periods of time and not properly looking after him. It's rubbish. These people are supposed to be carers yet they accuse my mother of not looking after dad. She deserves a medal for what she has done for him. He's not been neglected. If anything he's been spoilt rotten."

A Barnsley council spokesman said: "We took the action we thought was appropriate in the patient's best interests and remain open to offer him help if it is needed in the future."



Mary and Lewis Taylor: married for 55 years

## Children fear for parents' health

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE health of parents is becoming an increasing concern for children, according to a poll of young teenagers. Those in poorer households worried most while children in wealthier families thought their parents worked too hard and might become ill.

The survey of 10 to 16-year-olds conducted by NOP for the British Heart Foundation showed that smoking was the major worry. Fifty four per cent of those whose parents smoked said they worried about them, compared with 34 per cent of those whose parents were non-smokers. Six out of ten wished parents would give up although most felt they had little influence.

More than half thought their parents ought to take more exercise while a quarter felt they were eating too many ready-prepared meals and were not getting enough fresh fruit and vegetables.

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## Birth rate rises as Ireland prospers

By AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish are having more children as the country becomes more prosperous. In most countries, economic success is followed by a fall in the birth rate. But in Ireland the number of births is at its highest in ten years, figures published yesterday show.

The rate has been rising since 1994, when an economic upturn began. "The economy has done well and that is giving rise to an increase in births," said Jerry Sexton, of the Economic and Social Research Institute. "People who had been postponing pregnancies now feel they have sufficient financial security."

The influence of the Church on Irish life is reflected in birth rates. In the 1960s and 1970s, when many women in Europe were on the Pill, contraception was banned in Ireland. Although the Pill and condoms were prescribed from 1979, contraception became widely available only in the mid-1980s. Until 1974, married women were not permitted to work in the public service.

In the 1980s, the birth rate fell sharply. By 1991, it was almost half the 1961 level.

Evelyn Mahon, of Trinity College, Dublin, believes that the present pronounced rise is explained by the number of working women in their thirties who have hitherto deferred having children, and to an influx of immigrants.

## Leader of council 'tried to buy votes'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Labour leader of Liverpool City Council was caught up in a local government sleaze row yesterday over claims that he is trying to buy votes with taxpayers' money.

The Liberal Democrat opposition called on Frank Prendergast to resign his post after the publication of a letter asking party candidates to come up with vote-winning ideas.

The letter, sent to Labour candidates in next May's elections, said: "If resources were available... and there was one issue within your ward that you believed the council could undertake to help ensure a victory - what would it be?"

Mr Prendergast also tells party activists that if they can notify his office of that issue he would "give it some consideration during the budget process."

Mr Prendergast said that the letter could "probably have been worded better" but insisted that it did not amount to an offer of an election bribe.

He suggested that the Liberal Democrats had misinterpreted the letter. However, Mike Storey, the Liberal Democrat leader, insisted that the leaked letter was a clear indication that the Labour Party was ready to buy votes with council taxes. He is planning a motion of "no confidence" over the issue and plans to ask the District Auditor to investigate.

## Sunshine seekers meet their shadows

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO couples who met when they shared a table at a holiday hotel found that they also shared first names and much more.

Albert and Betty Cheetham, from Derby, and Albert and Betty Rivers, from Swindon, arrived and departed for their month-long breaks at Sousse in Tunisia on the same days. In between they realised that both had celebrated 55 years of marriage and the date and time of their weddings were the same: 2pm on August 15, 1942.

Mr Cheetham, 77, and his wife, 78, have two sons born in 1943 and 1945, as have the

Rivers. Both couples have five grandchildren.

Mr Cheetham said yesterday: "It was absolutely unbelievable. At first we were laughing, then it got quite eerie, the coincidences just kept coming."

Both Betys had worked in post offices in their home towns. Both Alberts had been coach body workers in the same way, workshops at the same time. Neither Betty could show the other her engagement ring as both had lost them. But they did have identical watch bracelets, which had had the same links broken and repaired.

# Short shorn of responsibilities for colonies

Territories may be offered British citizenship in deal to end money-laundering, reports Michael Binyon

CLARE SHORT is to lose her responsibility for Britain's 13 remaining colonies in a radical shake-up which will give them a separate department in the Foreign Office.

All responsibility for the territories, including Montserrat, will be removed from Ms Short's Department for International Development under a deal in which the colonies may be offered eventual British citizenship if they enact stringent new laws to stop money-laundering and the hiding of illegal profits.

At a summit meeting in London of the chief ministers from the Dependent Territories, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will

today announce the results of a review of the far-flung islands and territories, prompted last year by the volcanic crisis on Montserrat. He will unveil a new, "modernised contract" for a "stronger, better partnership" with Britain, giving them more say in their own government but also a closer relationship with Whitehall. They will be renamed British Overseas Territories.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean will be appointed as the first new Minister for Overseas Territories, heading a separate department that will focus all Britain's

dealing with the territories. A new Overseas Territories Council representing the people of the islands will be set up which will meet once a year. It will be given greater access to Commonwealth links and will meet shortly before each Commonwealth summit. Development aid, totalling £200 million since 1990, will continue and special help will be given to islands such as Montserrat and St Helena whose isolation has meant high unemployment.

On the key question of restoring their British citizenship, Mr Cook is not promising any immediate

change. He will tell the ministers that he recognises the deep distress caused by British laws that took away their full citizenship and their right to live in Britain. This, he admits, has soured goodwill.

But the Foreign Office is still negotiating, largely with a reluctant Home Office, on whether all 186,000 people living in the ten inhabited territories can become British again. A White Paper on the future of the territories will be sent to Parliament within the next few months.

Mr Cook will insist on stringent financial regulation that will en-

sure their compliance with all European Union regulations and international agreements to stop money-laundering and the disposal of drug profits. He will call for the "proper regulation" of their financial services and the appointment of independent regulators.

A controversial issue is the legalisation of homosexuality, still forbidden in most of the Caribbean territories. Officials have made clear that these laws, contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights, must be lifted.

Two former colonies, Gibraltar and the Falklands, already have

full British citizenship, and were not included in the review. Three are uninhabited: British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. Bermuda, with 61,000 people, accounts for over a third of all the remaining population, and Pitcairn Island, the most remote, has only 51 people. The other territories are: British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla and St Helena and dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha).

□ The Commons Foreign Affairs

Committee yesterday called for the abolition of the Foreign Office's Caribbean Secretariat and for the establishment of a special task force to oversee Britain's relations with the colonies (Nicholas Watt writes). The recommendations, which were made in the committee's interim report on Dependent Territories, was rushed out ahead of Mr Cook's speech today.

The secretariat, which is staffed by the Foreign Office and the Department for International Development (DFID), was set up in 1992 to bring the Government closer to the Caribbean territories. The committee believes that it duplicates the work of Foreign Office and the DFID.

## Blair's 'Cool Britannia' is a turn-off, says designer

By Mark Henderson

TONY BLAIR risks alienating young people and damaging the cultural industries he hopes to promote by tying himself closely to the "Cool Britannia" phenomenon, one of Britain's leading fashion designers said yesterday.

Wayne Hemmingsway, the founder of the Red or Dead label, said that the Prime Minister's celebrity parties at 10 Downing Street and his creative industries task force could prove counter-productive by driving a largely alternative youth culture too far into the mainstream.

Photo calls with Noel Gallacher, Mick Hucknall, Paul Smith and Chris Evans would do little to promote British creativity without proper investment in art and design colleges and the music and fashion industries. Mr Hemmingsway told the Social Market Foundation, an independent think-tank. He also attempted to steer Mr Blair away from "rebranding" the country in line with the present fashion for all things young and British, which could make him look foolish when trends moved on.

"There is a very grave danger that by simply inviting a few (mostly naïf) pop stars and comedians to drink at No 10, the very people Blair is trying to impress will be turned off," Mr Hemmingsway said. "It brings to mind those sad pictures of Harold Wilson with the Beatles and it certainly didn't enamour Harold Wilson to British youth."

The fashion for Britain, celebrated by *Time* magazine under the headline "Cool

Britannia", would soon be the victim of a backlash that Mr Blair would be wise to avoid, Mr Hemmingsway said. "We have fashion week coming up, and people are bound to start asking if we are really as good as we say we are."

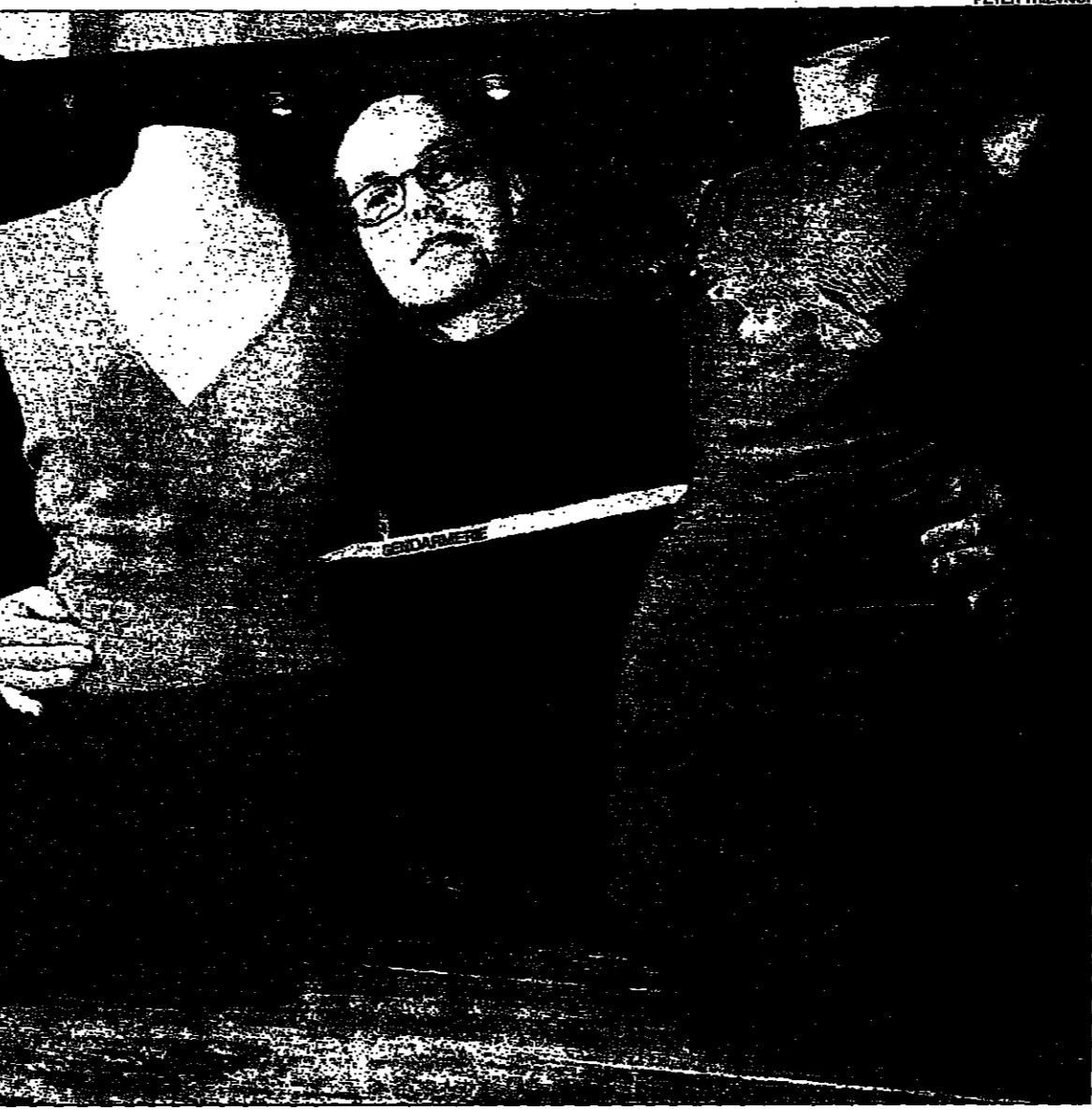
Britain should instead market its tradition of cultural innovations, from the Beatles, through punk and dance to Britpop, alongside other elements of our heritage such as the Royal Family and "afternoon tea and quaint pubs".

"There is nothing wrong with our heritage, and youth culture and forward thinking can live side by side," he said. "Let the parties of retired middle Americans with their sad anoraks and check slacks soak up our heritage while their grandchildren discover a more youthful Britain."

He said that much of the current strength of youth culture had come from rebellion against Margaret Thatcher, the poll tax and Clause 28, and any political attempt to appropriate that culture risked turning young people against it. "If there is nothing to rebel against, the edge will be lost."

Even young politicians, he said, could never truly understand street culture. "There was a lot of publicity immediately after the election about youthful Members of Parliament. But having met a couple... they do seem to have less in common with youth culture than my grandmother, and she has been dead for three years."

Mr Blair should seek low-key ways of marketing creativity and providing political



Wayne Hemmingsway said No 10 photo calls with, below, Noel Gallacher and Mick Hucknall could alienate youth

and economic circumstances in which it could thrive.

"The majority of major world youth culture movements since the early Sixties have originated here," Mr Hemmingsway said. "Britain is far more than merely fashionable - it is above fashion. We have developed a new major natural resource, youth culture, and... we should not overlook ways of harnessing and protecting and distributing this natural resource."

The Prime Minister could provide the most direct help by offering proper funding for centres of cultural excellence such as St Martin's College

and Cordwainers College in London. Cordwainers, in Hackney, East London, is recognised as the leading footwear design college in the world, yet occupies a "scruffy hole", he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said the creative industries task force, which includes Alan McGee, the head of Creation records, Paul Smith, the fashion designer, and Lord Putnam, the film producer would be considering what the Government could do to help creative talent and encouraged Mr Hemmingsway to contact it.



## Ministers told to take a walk instead of car

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

MINISTERS have been told to leave their cars at home and find a more environmentally friendly way of travelling to official engagements whenever possible.

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions has urged all ministers and civil servants to consider before they set out whether they could use public transport, walk or even cycle.

Angela Eagle, the junior Environment Minister, said in the Commons yesterday that every government department had been asked to draw up and implement green transport policies "with the objective of minimising the environmental impact of their department's transport activities".

Ms Eagle said that ministers sometimes had to use their cars for security reasons - for example, in Northern Ireland. But in many cases there was an alternative. "In my own case, of the 31 journeys I have made outside London on official visits since I was appointed a minister, one was by car, four by air and 26 by rail."

The department has set up three pilot projects in government offices in London, Southampton and Bristol to measure the success of policies aimed at encouraging staff to leave their cars at home.

A spokeswoman for the department said that various ideas were being tested, including the provision of showers for staff who wanted to cycle to work and loans for those who wanted to buy season tickets for public transport. The results, which will be reported to all Government departments, are expected in March.

There are already plans to persuade more MPs to cycle to the House of Commons with the payment of a mileage

allowance operating in the same way as that paid to MPs travelling by car.

Among the ministers who make a habit of walking to and from appointments are Stephen Byers, the Education Minister, and Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, who regularly leads his Welsh Office team down Whitehall to the Commons.

Last year, Tony and Cherie Blair broke with tradition by walking the short distance from Downing Street to the Commons for the State Opening of Parliament.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions, has been criticised for travelling in a "gas-guzzling" Jaguar at the same time as calling for reductions in car use and setting tough targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

During questions to department ministers yesterday, Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, said: "I suggest that it would be helpful if the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, did not use a four-litre Jaguar."

Mr Baker claimed that ministers still relied too heavily on their own cars. He said: "To be wholly effective, ministers have to make sure that their own house is in order and that their department is whiter than white, or should we say, greener than green."

Mr Lewis said that some ministers had not travelled by train at all. He claimed that they included Geoff Hoon, Parliamentary Secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department.

A spokeswoman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions defended Mr Prescott, saying: "He does use public transport quite a lot."

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### Forces exempted from low-pay law

THE Armed Forces are to be exempted from minimum wage legislation after a change of plan by the Government (Polly Newton writes).

An amendment excluding Army, Navy and Royal Air Force personnel from the National Minimum Wage Bill was tabled yesterday by the

Department of Trade and Industry.

The move follows assurances in December from Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, that the legislation would apply universally. A spokeswoman for the DTI said that the decision to exempt Armed Forces personnel was taken because of their "unique position". She said that in situations where they were required to be on duty for 24 hours a day, it would not be possible to guarantee a minimum hourly rate of pay.

Civilians employed by the armed forces will be covered by the legislation.

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# Israel suffers from germ war jitters

Travel agents have been inundated with requests for one-way airline tickets, Christopher Walker writes

THE Israeli Government yesterday struggled to stem germ war jitters as radio stations reported growing numbers of citizens opting to leave the country and poorly serviced gas-mask centres were besieged by angry crowds.

The manager of a large Tel Aviv travel company near the British Embassy said, on condition that the business was not identified: "We have been inundated with calls from Israelis who want to leave if trouble starts and want to know their options. How can I tell them that, if that happens, there won't be any options — the flights still operating will all be full."

The mood of near-hysteria among a section of a people previously renowned for their stoicism in the face of war has been encouraged by the reported claim by Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, that President Saddam Hussein has enough chemical and biological material to "blow away" Tel Aviv.

Israel's only English-language radio station, the Jerusalem-based Radio West, reported that many of those rushing to leave the country were buying one-way tickets.

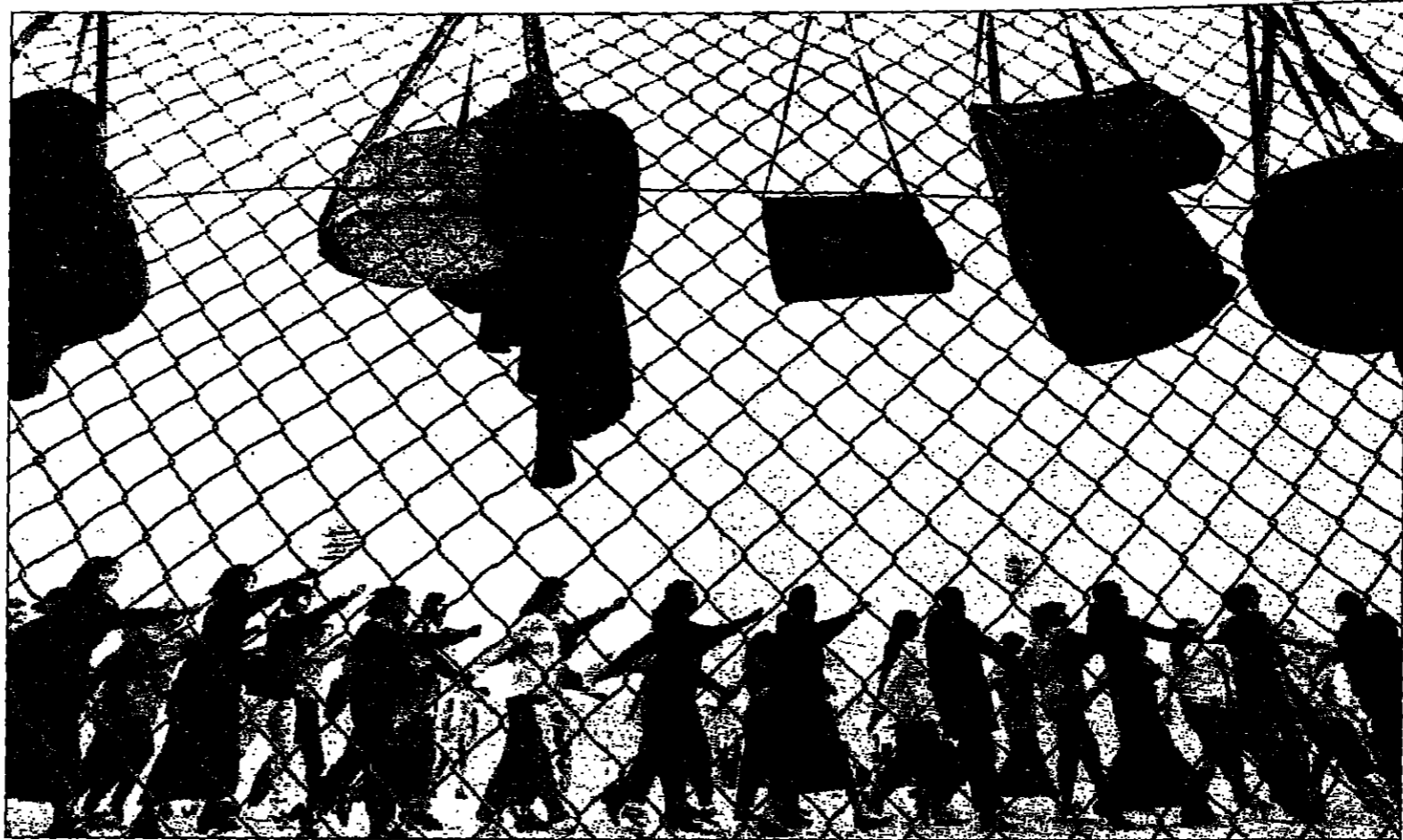
It was clear that an intense government information campaign to reassure the public of the improbability of Iraq launching a germ warfare

attack, and of Israel's preparedness, had had little effect. "I have a son abroad and I am probably going to go to him," one woman waiting for her gas mask and anti-chemical warfare medication told Israel radio. Another said that she had lived through the 39 Scud missile attacks in 1991, and this time she was leaving because she was not prepared to endure the same nerve-racking experience again.

The main gas-mask distribution centre in Jerusalem was closed for nearly five hours because supplies had run out. Long queues formed at many centres around the country long before they were due to open, as fears spread of a national shortage.

The mood of panic was passed on to foreign workers by claims from a leading opposition Labour politician that the Government was short by hundreds of thousands of gas masks and anti-chemical weapon kits and had none to give them.

Avraham Shohat accused Benjamin Netanyahu's Government of deliberately cutting vital spending against possible chemical or biological attack in its 1997 budget. He spoke after public anxiety was intensified by a move from the Treasury to request an extra 240 million shekels (£44 million) for "special civil emer-



Girls being trained on a school basketball court in Baghdad to defend Iraq against a possible American attack. Israel is braced for retaliation

gency funding" to buy gas masks and medicine.

The mass-circulation dailies *Maariv* and *Yediot Aharonot* ran front-page photographs of a bottled antidote to anthrax. Readers were told where to buy white anti-germ "space

suits" and assured that large doses of antibiotic could counter anthrax.

At one of only two gas-mask distribution centres in Tel Aviv, manned by two harassed young soldiers and equipped with only a single

computer, one woman who failed to get her mask in Monday's crush told *Maariv*: "Imagine what would be happening were they to be handing out antidotes to anthrax or antibiotics. People would be murdering one

another in the queue." The scepticism of most Israelis about public pronouncements on Saddam's likely moves were summed up by Yosef Lapid, a columnist for *Maariv*: "Apart from some sparse intelligence reports,

which are based on hypotheses, Netanyahu has not got any more of a clue about Saddam Hussein's intentions than your Aunt Bertha."

Lawrence Freedman, page 18  
Letters, page 19

## Doubts arise on vaccine against anthrax

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE discovery of a blended form of anthrax, recovered from the infamous Sverdlovsk incident in the Soviet Union, has cast doubt on the efficacy of vaccines against the deadly biological agent.

American government scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory made the discovery when they performed new tests on infected tissue samples retrieved by two pathologists after the leak of anthrax from a military base in the Russian city, now named Yekaterinburg, 900 miles east of Moscow, in 1979.

The tests found that the anthrax contained at least four different strains in an apparent attempt to overwhelm vaccines used against the disease. It was the first indication that the Soviet Union, which continued its biological weapons research in the 1970s despite an international ban, might have been developing a vaccine-resistant blend of anthrax.

The results were reported by Dr Paul Jackson yesterday in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The news provoked an immediate controversy within the American Government, which recently ordered all 2.4 million military personnel to be inoculated against anthrax exposure, including thousands serving in the Gulf.

Colonel Arthur Friedlander, the chief of bacteriology at the US Army's Fort Detrick laboratories, insisted that the American vaccine was based on a single protein component of the anthrax bacillus that is the same in all strains of the disease.

Iraq is known to have produced tonnes of anthrax, but there is no evidence it has developed a multi-strain blend.

## Albright quest for support leaves Arabs divided

BY MICHAEL THEODOROU IN NICOSIA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



Albright gave an upbeat assessment after her meeting with the

THE United States won reluctant support from its Gulf Arab allies for military action against Iraq, but most of the Arab world, including key components of the American-led coalition in 1991, remained hostile to the use of force.

President Mubarak of Egypt was thought to have underlined his opposition last night in talks with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. Cairo, the headquarters of the 22-member Arab League, was her last and toughest port of call on a tour of Europe and the Middle East to rally support.

Ms Albright gave an upbeat assessment after her meeting with the

### DIPLOMACY

Egyptian leader, however. "On Iraq today I can say that the US, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, [and] the Palestinian Authority are one mind," she told a Cairo news conference. "This crisis has been created by Iraqi defiance. We prefer to resolve it diplomatically but if diplomacy fails, responsibility for the grave consequences that will follow will lie at the feet of the Government of Iraq."

Esmat Abdel-Maguid, the Arab League's Secretary-General, criticised America and Britain. Quoted in a Gulf newspaper, he said they appeared to view a military strike as an end in itself. "The use or threat of force threatens the region and Arab

national security," he said, before leaving for talks today with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad aimed at averting "catastrophe". While Egypt has been one of Washington's most important Arab allies, relations have been severely tested by the deadlocked Middle East peace talks. Egyptian commentators have joined others across the region in condemning what they see as double standards in Washington's policy towards Iraq and Israel.

Earlier, Ms Albright said: "We believe we have all the co-operation we need across the board." She was speaking after talks in Bahrain, where the US Fifth Fleet maintains its central command.

"I have had very positive support whether from [Jordan's] King Hussein, the Emir here, or Kuwait or

Saudi Arabia for what we are seeking," Ms Albright said at a joint press conference with Bahrain's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak al-Khalifa. He said Saddam would bear "sole responsibility" for the "grave consequences" that could result from failing to comply with United Nations resolutions. However, it was clear that grudging support from Washington's Gulf allies depended on diplomacy being exhausted first, and none publicly pledged military co-operation. US officials believed this would come if it "came to the crunch", while Arab diplomats said the smaller Gulf states had little choice but to bend to the will of a country on which they relied for their defence.

Moves to avert a military outcome to the impasse continued. Tariq Aziz,

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, held what the Iraqi News Agency described as a "very constructive" telephone conversation with Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General.

Russia threatened to exercise its Security Council veto to thwart efforts to secure a new resolution authorising military action against Iraq. Moscow insisted yesterday that its diplomatic efforts to resolve the Iraqi crisis were making progress.

Meanwhile Britain and the US are coming under pressure to postpone any military action until after the UN-backed "Olympic Truce" during the Nagano Winter Games in Japan, which start on Saturday and end on February 22. The truce was originally designed to enable athletes from rival city-states to compete in the Olympic Games.

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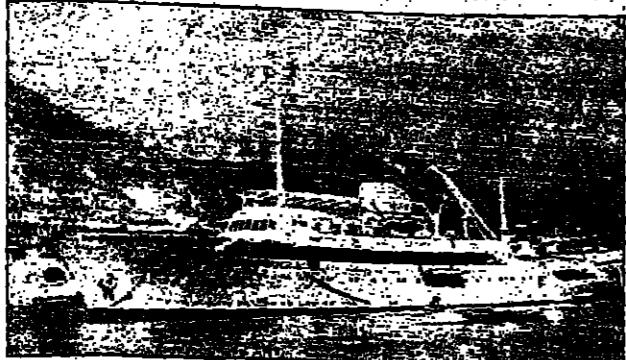
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Abbreviations: CDG (Charles de Gaulle), LHR (London Heathrow), MAN (Manchester), SOU (Southampton), BHX (Birmingham), GLA (Glasgow), EDI (Edinburgh), NCL (Newcastle). Full terms and conditions appeared in *The Times* on Monday and Friday, Jan 26 and 31.



سكنا من الاصل

# Tycoon charts glamorous future for floating palace of Onassis



The Christina, bought from Greece for £5 million.

By JOHN CARR  
IN ATHENS AND  
VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE luxury yacht of Aristotle Onassis, Christina, a fabled floating palace that once played host to Sir Winston Churchill, Maria Callas and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, is being rescued by a Greek-American businessman who intends to spend almost £1 million to restore her. Maritime sources named the buyer as Vasilis Yannit-

sis, who reportedly bought her from the Greek state for £5 million. Once refurbished, the Christina is expected to be employed as a super-luxury cruise liner for people whose means match those of the late tycoon. Onassis had bequeathed the vessel to Christina on his death in 1975, and she in turn gave it to the Greek Government. The intention was that it should be used for state functions. However, by 1990 the Greek

Government admitted that its enormous budget deficit meant luxuries such as the Christina had to be sold. The Government had only used her four times because of running costs of almost £500,000 a year. She was left to rot in a naval dockyard and some of her sumptuous fittings and paintings were looted. Built during the Second World War as a corvette for the Canadian Navy, the vessel was bought by Onassis in

1948 after he had started his rise to legendary wealth. Apparently consumed with envy for the sumptuous yacht of his brother-in-law and shipping rival Stavros Niarchos, he ordered no expense to be spared on the vessel. By 1954, she had been converted into a 320ft, 1,774-tonne luxury yacht. He said later that he spent about £3 million on her palatial fittings. The indoor swimming pool could be filled with either seawater or fresh water.

and at the flick of a button its lapis lazuli floor elevated to become a dance floor. On deck, the skin of whale scrotums upholstered the bar stools, while carved ivory arm rests depicted scenes from the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Gold-plated taps and marble floors adorned the bathrooms of the eight staterooms where guests, tired of calculating the number of whales needed per bar stool, reportedly relaxed in baths of champagne. In later years some ques-

tioned the value of the interior decor, claiming that two purported El Grecos were fakes. "Onassis was not renowned for his taste," said Vasilis Kavathas, a photographer who covered the family. When Onassis married Jacqueline Kennedy in 1968, the new bride is said to have stripped an interior wall of its landscape paintings — remnants of the days when Onassis and Maria Callas had been lovers — and thrown them into the sea.

# French Presidents' infidelities laid bare by magazine

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A FRENCH magazine has responded to the Clinton sex scandal by publishing an in-depth examination of French presidential adultery, suggesting that, whatever their political differences, Presidents over the past 40 years have been united in a liberal approach to their marriage vows. The report, in the convention-flouting news magazine *Marianne*, tells a tale of secret assignations, kept women, love-children and illicit romance involving successive Presidents that would cause a political explosion in the US, or at the very least hefty moralising. In France, however, the "revelations" (or, more accurately, the repetition of long-established gossip) in *Marianne* have produced barely a ripple in the rest of the French press and as yet no response whatever from those whose amorous histories have been opened to scrutiny. "It can simply be said that all yesterday's Presidents, of both the Left and Right, have had romantic

lives outside the bounds of marriage," *Marianne* declared. Without providing proof, the magazine suggested that President Chirac, like his predecessor François Mitterrand, had enjoyed a string of lovers, including the Italian actress Claudia Cardinale. While resident in the Elysée Palace, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing evinced a particular interest in young actresses, the magazine said, citing an affair with, among others, Sylvia Kristel, the star of the film *Emmanuelle*. Mitterrand's wandering eye was legendary, and "even with prostate cancer, he continued to see women other than Anne Pigeot", his long-term mistress and the mother of his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, the magazine reported. *Marianne* justified its decision to peer into the presidential bedroom by insisting that the French press has long condoned hypocrisy by allowing adulterous politicians to pose as dedicated family men.

But if the magazine hoped to provoke uproar by exploring presidential infidelity, it may be disappointed. The traditional taboo on reporting details of the sex lives of the great and good in France has less to do with prudishness or legal concerns — even given France's stringent privacy laws — than with issues of good taste. A mistress is still considered, in some political circles, to be part of the accepted qualifications for a prominent figure. Privately, Paris political circles hum with gossip about which famous politician may or may not be sleeping or have slept with which actress, writer or air hostess, but committing such matters to print is seen as distinctly tacky. The *Marianne* examination of French presidential love affairs avoids taking a moral position on adultery, offering instead something close to a survey of each President's inclinations. De Gaulle: personally unimpeachable, yet relaxed on sexual mores despite a wife who insisted that adulterers be removed from his Cabinets; Pompidou: keen, but hampered by ill health; Giscard: credited with many lovers, but chivalrous rather than "torrid"; Mitterrand: wide-ranging, energetic and a living encouragement to libertinism in his "court". With M Chirac, *Marianne* treats most carefully, suggesting that his arrival at the Elysée brought a higher moral tone, yet noting that "the new President had a well-established reputation. Were his telephones not tapped by the secret service following a brief adventure with a Soviet air hostess linked to the KGB?" France still lacks the Anglo-Saxon or puritan taste for a fully-fledged sex scandal. The general reaction to the *Marianne* litany of adultery might best be summed up by President Mitterrand's remark when first taxed about his illegitimate daughter: "Et alors?" he responded. "So what?"



Kristel romantically linked with Giscard d'Estaing



Cardinale: said to have been one of Chirac's mistresses



Helmut Kohl, the pipe-smoking German Chancellor, speaks from a stage dominated by a smoking predecessor, Ludwig Erhard

# Smoking ban Bill divides German MPs

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A DEEP wedge has been driven into Germany's political class by a new anti-smoking law which is pitting pipe-puffing Helmut Kohl against party colleagues. The rift runs right down the Cabinet table — Horst Seehofer, the Health Minister, is insisting on the right to smoke, while Angela Merkel, the Environment Minister, wants tobacco banished from the workplace — even the Chancellorery. The law, put forward by 136 non-smokers from all three major parties — Christian Democrats, Free Democrats and Social Democrats — goes forward for its most important reading tomorrow. The vote will be a free one and is being taken very seriously. It comes in the same week as a vote in the Bundestag, the upper chamber, on a law which would allow the police to eavesdrop on journalists, psychiatrists and doctors. Together the two laws could give the impression of a society rapidly becoming more repressive. Heinz Broders, spokesman of the First Smokers Lobby, says: "Daily, fascism is becoming normal practice in Germany. It is not the product, tobacco, that is being marginalised, but rather the people who are legally making use of it." Germans are usually more cautious about accusations of fascist behaviour, but pro-smokers are certainly aware of the Third Reich restrictions on smoking. Hitler, who gave up cigarettes, led what was then the world's strongest anti-smoking movement. Supporters of the current Bill say there is no repressive intent and the point is to protect non-smokers, more than 4,000 of whom allegedly die annually because of the

effects of passive smoking. Until now employees in Germany have had to go to court to win the right to non-smoking areas if their management is unwilling to introduce the measures. Under the terms of the law, smoking will be banned from all public offices, all public transport and even areas serving transport, such as airport waiting rooms, railway stations and bus stops. In private enterprises, employers will have to set aside a separate area for smokers. Fines of £1,700 can be imposed on all offenders. Much to the disappointment of one of the Bill's sponsors, the Christian Democrat drug abuse expert Roland Sauer, the non-smokers have been unable to win over the Chancellor. "He doesn't see why we need to put additional restrictions on people," sighs Herr Sauer. The Christian Democrat parliamentary leader, Wolfgang Schäuble — another pipe-smoker — was asked to make all caucus meetings smoke-free. "Not as long as I am in charge," he barked. The opposition Social Democrats are just as divided. Much of the opposition to smoking comes from women MPs. Yet the fines are unlikely to be imposed on smokers in private companies and the measures, if passed tomorrow, will stop a long way short of the dramatic restrictions in the United States. Cigarette consumption in Germany is the highest in North-West Europe and is likely to stay that way. Company managements are trying, however, to find a middle way. Some are paying a £30 monthly bonus to non-smoking employees, on the ground that smokers get sick more often.

# Aid cut will dampen pro-Europe mood, Mandelson tells Brussels

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

PLANS by the European Union to cut aid to Britain's poorer regions could endanger the government drive to foster a more pro-European mood, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, told the Brussels Commission yesterday. Mr Mandelson added his staunchly pro-European voice to a campaign by British ministers to limit a reduction totalling hundreds of millions of pounds in EU aid to Britain that the Commission will announce next month as part of a reform of regional, or "structural", funds. "It would be very unfortunate if reallocating structural funds were to lead to a re-

duction of 50 per cent in what Britain gets," Mr Mandelson said. "Just as we are turning around British public opinion and nurturing a pro-European consensus, it would be bound to influence British opinion negatively," he told reporters. Mr Mandelson was given a sympathetic hearing by Erkki Liikanen, the Finnish commissioner responsible for the EU budget, officials said. His argument carries weight given the EU's desire to consolidate Britain's leap since last May to its most Euro-friendly posture since it joined the Common Market in 1973. Mr Mandelson ensured a warm Brussels welcome with

an enthusiastic lecture in Florence last Friday, during which he proclaimed Britain as "unmistakably part of the [European] convoy, even if initially we set sail from a different port". On monetary union, he said: "A single market and a single currency naturally fit together. It makes sense and it can bring large economic benefits." Most EU states are lobbying hard to minimise the impact on the drastic budget overhaul that is being planned to pave the way for EU entry by poorer, former communist states over the next ten years. The Government accepts that aid must be cut but it is alarmed that the cuts will un-

justly penalise Britain because they will be heavily based on the level of employment, a field in which Britain has achieved high results. This will affect wide stretches of the Midlands, Wales, northern England and Scotland. Britain received a gross £9.5 billion of the £85 billion of EU regional aid in the 1994-99 period. Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, defended Britain's case for reform in the common agricultural policy before the European Parliament. "We do not expect it to be totally dismantled, but we are not alone in wanting reform," he told MEPs.

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Ferrell: described as a misfit at school

### Killings blamed on teen vampire leader

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THE trial of a teenage vampire cult leader, accused of killing the parents of a cult member, prepared to get under way in central Florida yesterday.

According to court documents Rod Ferrell, 17, from Kentucky, was obsessed with the idea that if he killed enough people he would acquire "super-powers" to open the Gates of Hell. He and friends often cut their arms and drank one another's blood in a local cemetery as part of a vampire ritual known as "crossing over".

It was after one such ritual involving Heather Wendorf, 17 and a cult member, that her parents were said to have been killed in November 1996. Her father, Richard Wendorf, was beaten severely in the face, and a "V" sign surrounded by circular marks was burnt into his body. Police say the "V" was the sign of Mr Ferrell's cult and the circular marks represented its members.

Mr Ferrell has allegedly confessed several times to the murders and prosecutors claim to have genetic evidence linking him to the crime. Shortly after he was arrested, he also gave a newspaper interview blaming rival vampires and saying he had multiple personalities.

His lawyers are expected to argue that, if convicted, he should be spared the electric chair because he comes from a family that has a history of mental illness and "suffers from the influences of vampirism and practices of the occult". At school Mr Ferrell was regarded as a "misfit" and shortly before he came to Florida he was charged in an animal abuse case in which dogs at an animal shelter were killed and tortured. Three other people from Kentucky have also been charged with participating in the murders and will be tried later.

Heather Wendorf, who was freed by police, claims Mr Ferrell confessed to her.

# Drums and dances greet Prince

Christopher Thomas in Colombo reports on tight security and a wet welcome for a bemused visitor

THE arrival of the Prince of Wales in Sri Lanka yesterday ignited trouble within minutes. He received a 21-gun salute, which sparked a grass fire barely 50 yards away, forcing two fire tenders to roar across the airport runway to soak everything within range — including the gun and the gunners, who dripped in embarrassment beneath a fierce tropical sun.

A stray dog, spooked by the gunfire, scampered across the Prince's path and was rewarded with a wry royal smile. As the royal guest walked along a red carpet to his waiting limousine, the military band retreated to the strains of *Liberty Bell*, the Monty Python theme tune, doubtless unaware of the connection.

At this point the Sri Lankan authorities did not know that the Prince had, apparently in jest, told journalists accompanying him on the plane that he had no idea why he was visiting the country. He is not alone — extremist Buddhist monks want him to go home, although most of the Sinhalese community is enthusiastic about his visit.

The Prince's five British security men, some carrying guns under an agreement reached during difficult negotiations with the Sri Lankan authorities, looked impressed by the massive security. Everything from helicopters to rocket-launchers protected their charge, and a dozen outriders escorted him to his first engagement of the day, jet lag notwithstanding.

The intense security surrounding his visit, involving 15,000 men, has thrown Colombo's traffic into chaos. The Prince, speaking to journalists on the plane from London, asked them: "Have you got your bulletproof vests? The defence attaché [at the British High Commission in Colombo] said there is nothing going on — it's lunatic."

What precisely he thought was lunatic was not clear, but

there was a hint of seriousness in his quip. More than 50,000 people have died in the 15-year terrorist war, and the Tamil Tigers are probably the world's most professional guerrilla army, with a band of suicide-bombers ready to burst through the toughest security.

The Prince was ushered away to a new Courtaulds factory that will make men's underwear for Marks & Spencer, and he expressed gratitude for the support it was going to give people back home. He smiled at his own joke: the people at Courtaulds looked like they had heard it before, but they laughed anyway.

He was taken to the Raja Maha Viharaya, a 17th-century Buddhist temple, to be greeted by thousands of schoolchildren and a bevy of traditional dancers, who paraded before him to the pounding of drums and the gonging of a giant temple bell. The Prince looked bemused as he stared out from beneath a giant parasol shading him from the sunshine.

Inside, he questioned the chief monk about the difficulties of sitting cross-legged while meditating. The monk ventured afterwards: "His outer look says he is a highly developed person mentally." The Prince's security men were now looking tense.

Sri Lankan commandos armed with sub-machineguns strutted about. The size of the crowds, who milled all around the Prince, was surprising, given the pledge by Sri Lanka to ensure safety.

Wearing a garland of orchids, the Prince was driven away to rest. He could be reassured that attempts by hardline Buddhist monks to organise a boycott of his visit by the clergy had collapsed. He is in the country at the personal invitation of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who had wanted the Queen to be the



Shaded by a giant parasol, the Prince of Wales visits a Buddhist temple after arriving in Colombo yesterday

chief guest for the fiftieth independence anniversary today.

The Queen offered her son instead, and Sri Lanka promptly accepted.

Rebels killed: Sri Lankan soldiers have shot dead ten female Tamil Tigers and captured another while clearing a military camp in the northern region of Kilinochchi after a

weekend battle with the rebels, officials reported. Troops confronted the guerrillas a day after nearly 400 combatants had died, they said.

The women, [rebels] were

either trying to get out of the camp or had come in to sabotage," a senior military official said. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 19

## Broken dreams overshadow Sri Lanka jubilee



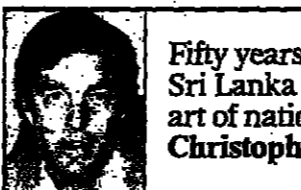
A Colombo council worker waves the national flag

SRI LANKA coasted to independence 50 years ago today on the back of India's freedom struggle. The island state is striving to mark the event with a sense of celebration, when the underlying mood is one of self-inflicted failure.

The wreckage of Colombo city centre, smashed by two bomb blasts last year, is a reminder of broken dreams.

In 1948 the ancient island of Serendip, which gave the world the word serendipity, boasted the most powerful economy in Asia after Japan. Now it squanders 20 per cent of its meagre income on war and most people struggle against poverty.

The Prince of Wales is the principal guest, to the anger of hardline Buddhist clergy who have been trying to convince people of the butcherery of the British in the 1815 overthrow of the last Kandyan Buddhist kingdom.



Fifty years after independence, Sri Lanka has yet to perfect the art of nation-building, Christopher Thomas writes

They are also trying to prove that Tamils were all brought into an overwhelmingly Sinhalese island by the colonial power to work the tea plantations. It is historical humberg: the Tamils and Sinhalese were fighting long before the British, Portuguese or Dutch controlled the island and the Tamils brought in from India were relatively small in number.

The departure of the British was amicable and uneventful, unlike the horror of Indian independence. Sri Lanka did not suffer the military dictatorships of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma. It could

have been an Asian tiger, but for self-imposed calamities. It blames itself for messing up, unlike India and Pakistan, which look to their colonial past to justify half a century of self-inflicted political and economic blunders.

Tamils and Sinhalese once called themselves communities. Now they describe themselves as nations, emphasising their rival claims to nationhood. The Sinhalese, of Indo-Aryan stock from northern India, regard themselves as the true people of Sri Lanka — a belief that feeds a disastrous attitude towards the Tamil minority and lies at the

heart of the conflict. Sinhalese equate Sinhala nationalism with Sri Lankan nationalism. The one calamitous decision that led to the ethnic war was the Sinhala-only legislation of 1956, which lifted recognition of Tamil as an official language. After that blow, the uncertain desire for a separate Tamil homeland became a passionate one.

After 15 years and 52,000 dead, there is no foreseeable hope of peace. The independence celebrations had to be moved at the last moment from the Sinhalese heartland town of Kandy to the ethnically mixed capital for security reasons.

Tamils, 18 per cent of the population, mostly feel uninvolved in this week's events. The art of nation-building, like the art of displaying sensitivity towards an aggrieved and alienated people, has yet to be perfected.

### WORLD SUMMARY

#### Fast-food firm hit by firebombs

Athens: Fire-bombers struck at two McDonald's restaurants in a northern suburb of the Greek capital (John Carr writes). What police said were home-made explosive devices went off outside the fast-food outlets in the suburb of Halandri within two miles and ten minutes of each other. Both branches suffered damage, but nobody was injured as they were closed. No organisation took responsibility for the blasts, which shattered windows in nearby flats.

#### No survivors in air crash

Manila: Search teams yesterday spotted the debris of a domestic Philippines airliner that crashed into a mountain-top and exploded, with 104 people on board, but there were no signs of survivors (Aby Tan writes). Helicopter pilots who flew over the site near Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao said the Cebu Pacific Air DC9 was a total wreck.

#### Drug-crazed actor critical

New York: Daniel Baldwin, 37, the self-declared black sheep of the famous acting clan, was in critical condition in hospital after going on a nude, drug-crazed rampage in the New York Plaza Hotel (James Bone writes). Police found Mr Baldwin, the brother of movie stars Alec, Billy and Stephen, naked and wounded in his suite.

#### MPs' protest greets Moi

Nairobi: Opposition members of parliament staged a noisy demonstration inside Kenya's National Assembly during the first session since elections in December, witnesses said. Many refused to stand when the President, Daniel arap Moi, entered the chamber (Reuters).

#### Seaweed seal for food

Jerusalem: Researchers from Hebrew University have developed a clear, tasteless, natural polymer-based edible coating for food that could make synthetic wrapping obsolete. Derived from seaweed, the seal makes cheese, fruit and vegetables look better and keep longer. (Reuters)

#### It could be you-ooo-ooo

Santiago de Compostela: The heirs of a man buried last month want his tomb opened so they can search for a lost Spanish lottery ticket in order to claim a £20,000 prize. Juan Villasanté Paz, 76, was buried in the suit he wore when he bought the ticket. (AFP)

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# Blair compares White House woes to 'nonsense attacks by Tory losers'

Peter Riddell and Tom Rhodes report on Labour leader's view of the "big picture"

TONY BLAIR has compared President Clinton's problems in the Monica Lewinsky affair with recent Conservative attacks on his Government as trying to distract attention from the "big picture" issues that really concern people.

He was speaking in a series of interviews ahead of his departure this afternoon to Washington for three days of talks with Mr Clinton.

Mr Blair complained that in Britain the Conservative opposition is "basically in a state of denial about the Labour election victory". The Prime Minister added: "If I

spent all my time worrying about the pieces of nonsense that they have been raising in the past few weeks then it wouldn't be worth being in politics." He appeared to be referring to the recent furor surrounding Robin Cook, though he did not mention the Foreign Secretary by name.

Throughout the interviews, Mr Blair praised Mr Clinton for not being distracted by recent charges.

Nonetheless, the Lewinsky affair is bound to be raised in the joint press conference which the two leaders will hold on Friday, the first by Mr Clinton since the Lewinsky affair blew up a fortnight ago.

According to a report yesterday, Ms Lewinsky visited the White House 37 times after she was removed from the West Wing and transferred to a job at the Pen-

tagon. On most occasions she was cleared for entry by Betty Currie, the President's personal secretary. In a damaging admission, defence officials said that the White House visits were in no way related to her work at the Pentagon.

In earlier reports, the former trainee is alleged to have met the President privately over Christmas outside the Oval Office 11 days after she had been subpoenaed to testify in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit. For the first time yesterday, however, White House officials confirmed reports in *The New York Times* of a pattern of

more than three dozen visits to the building in the 20 months after Ms Lewinsky became a public affairs assistant.

William Ginsburg, the Lewinsky lawyer who was yesterday preparing to escort his client to Los Angeles, said that she would visit her father in California for about a week. He was not surprised by the number of her visits to the White House. "It doesn't seem high to me," he said.

The logs, which the White House has refused to make public, have been turned over to the investigation by Kenneth Starr,

the independent prosecutor. "It was not part of her official duties to go to the White House," said Ken Bacon, Assistant Secretary of Defence and the Pentagon's chief spokesman, who was Ms Lewinsky's immediate supervisor.

Separately yesterday, George Stephanopoulos, the President's former top political adviser, was testifying before a federal grand jury in Washington about his own memories of Ms Lewinsky. Mr Stephanopoulos, now an ABC News commentator, angered the White House by suggesting that, if verified, the Lewinsky allegations

could lead to impeachment proceedings against Mr Clinton. He expected that Mr Starr would subpoena all those who had been employed on the West Wing's first floor during Ms Lewinsky's tenure as a trainee to establish her movements at the time.

Another person likely to testify will be Dennis Lytton, a political science student, who has said that he briefly dated Ms Lewinsky while on work experience at the Pentagon last summer. Mr Lytton claims that she told him of her sexual relationship with the President.

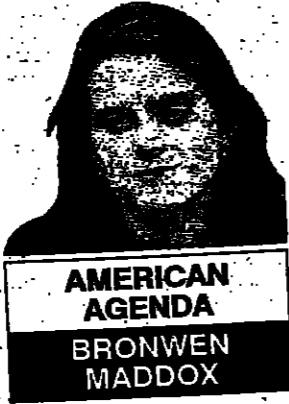
# Soulmates to swap social blueprints

BILL CLINTON'S years at Oxford University left him famously irritated with British tradition and stuffiness, but with warm memories of late nights of coffee and beer in the attic rooms of University College, wrangling over the future of the world.

Mr Blair's arrival in Washington later today will be a throwback to those times, say Clinton aides: the visit of a soulmate, not just another Prime Minister.

Yesterday the President's aides were calling Mr Blair's trip "the first foreign visit without foreign policy", as traditional diplomatic themes, looked set to be eclipsed by social policy. The White House rejects the Westminster line that Mr Blair is riding to Mr Clinton's rescue, a triumphant week having left the President apparently unscathed by his budget's popularity. He does not need an ally, aides say: what he wants is a friend.

Indeed Mr Blair, who this week attacked the treatment of politics as gossip-column fare or soap opera, may find he has stepped into a classic drama. Washington chatter about the three-day "bondfest" portrays it as the meeting of yuppie wives, in the spirit of thirty-



AMERICAN AGENDA  
BRONWEN MADDOX

something or that cinema classic of reunited friends, *The Big Chill*.

Downing Street and the White House have added elements that clearly set the visit apart. Mr Blair's decision to bring Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, "which just doesn't happen normally", according to one aide, has signalled his willingness to focus on social policy. Similarly, the joint decision that the Prime Minister will visit a high school is a departure from traditional commercial or military excursions.

Above all, there is the social policy roundtable on Friday afternoon, dubbed at the Brit-

ish end "Chequers Two" after last year's workshop attended by Hillary Clinton and the budget director, Franklin Raines. Welfare reform, private prisons and the war against drugs — social experiments where Downing Street has used the US as a model for change — head the agenda.

The lack of focus on conventional foreign policy is simply because what Mr Clinton needs from Britain — such as support in combating Iraq — he has already won. On Northern Ireland, the two leaders also think alike.

Mr Blair's warmth towards Europe, compared with John Major's Government, has usefully simplified US relations with the Continent. The answer to Henry Kissinger's famously sceptical question — "If I want to speak to Europe, whom do I call?" — is now obvious: call Tony.

With so many important agreements in place, the trip's main value may be simply to clinch and publicise the personal relationship. Struggling to avoid the term "special relationship" — now considered questionable as well as a cliché — to describe the state of play between the two nations, aides have settled for the "unique relationship" between

the two men. Mr Clinton's liking for Mr Blair was obvious at the Denver "Summit of the Eight" last summer. Having bullied leaders of the industrial world into versions of cowboy garb, Mr Clinton hung back repeatedly to chat with Mr Blair; they clearly shared more than a knack of not looking foolish in jeans.

That link has remained: they telephone each other frequently for informal chats that do not feature in official White House logs. Last week's call as pressure was rising on Mr Clinton over Iraq and the former trainee Monica Lewinsky was hardly out of the ordinary. Mr Blair's criticism of such allegations on the business of government was welcomed in the White House, but would have been considered presumptuous had the two not been close.

Mr Clinton's memories of English snobbishness from his time as a Rhodes scholar played a part in turning his enthusiasm away from the Old Continent towards Asia in his first term, biographers say. His enthusiasm for Mr Blair, which has coincided with the turmoil in Asia, may now have given him a reason to turn back.

# Democrats scramble for dinner tickets

By Tom Rhodes in Washington and Peter Riddell



Sir Elton: favourite with both leaders

THE dinner given by President Clinton for Tony Blair tomorrow night officially became the hottest ticket in Washington as guests who had spurned the event scrambled yesterday to be reinvited.

With Sir Elton John and Stevie Wonder leading the White House entertainment, and Barbra Streisand, Harrison Ford and Tom Hanks on the guest list, the Prime Minister is being feted as no other leader has been during Mr Clinton's tenure. The Pres-

ident looks more stable than he did when his alleged affair with Monica Lewinsky erupted, and many in the Democratic establishment see the dinner as a way of expressing solidarity.

Capricia Marshall, the White House social secretary, said Sir Elton and Stevie Wonder had been chosen because they were "part of our music cultures" — and both, it seems, are favourites of the President and Mr Blair.

Unusually for a foreign trip, the Prime Minister is being accompanied by a large team of domestic policy advisers: Jack Straw, the Home Secretary; Helen Liddell, the Treasury Economic Secretary; Alan Milburn, the Health Minister; as well as David Milliband and Geoff Mulgan from the Downing Street Policy Unit. The party will also include Gavyn Davies, the leading economist from Goldman Sachs, and Profes-

sor Anthony Giddens from the London School of Economics. The main features of Mr Blair's itinerary are:

- Today: Meetings and dinner to discuss economic policy with Jean-Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Robert Rubin, the American Treasury Secretary, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve.
- Tomorrow: Breakfast television interviews; meeting with Irish congressional lobby; formal arrival ceremony at White House South Lawn; meetings with President Clinton; visit to local school with President; formal White House dinner.
- Friday: Breakfast hosted by Vice-President Al Gore; joint press conference with President Clinton; Chequers Two seminar; record joint radio address with Clinton; fly to Camp David.
- Saturday: Fly home.

# Teacher who had sex with boy, 13, is arrested again

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

A SEATTLE woman who admitted having a sexual affair with a 13-year-old boy has been rearrested after being found with him late at night in a parked car.

Mary Kay LeTourneau, 35, made the headlines last year when she pleaded guilty to two counts of statutory rape of a minor after bearing the child of one of her teenage pupils.

She was a respected teacher and mother of four when she was first arrested after confessing to a passionate affair with the boy, who has not been identified. The pair were found at 3am yesterday by police, who noticed her car's sidelights in a southern Seattle lay-by.

The car looked suspicious and its windows were steamy, said Carmen Best, a police spokeswoman, although she refused to say if the pair had been having sex. LeTourneau had been released from prison for good behaviour after serving 100 days of a six-month sentence.

She cut a mournful and penitent figure at her trial last year and now faces seven and a half years in jail for violating the terms of her probation, which included having no contact with children or with adults caring for children. The



LeTourneau faces a lengthy prison term

boy at the heart of the affair, who is now 15, has insisted that he loves LeTourneau and wants to marry her. His child is being cared for by his mother. Mr LeTourneau has meanwhile moved to Alaska with his four children and is filing for divorce.

At last year's trial, lawyers on both sides agreed the disgraced teacher suffered from a compulsive sexual disorder, but disagreed on treatment.

"I fear the worst," her lawyer said yesterday, referring to a possible heavy prison sentence. "I think this underscores the compulsion and fixation she had on this person."



Hillary Clinton takes a break from the World Economic Forum's Davos meeting

# Paparazzi face jail for 'star chasing'

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD'S paparazzi were contemplating new risks in the business of pursuing celebrities for pictures yesterday after two British photographers were convicted of falsely imprisoning Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife. One lawyer said: "The court has sent a message. 'Don't mess with the stars'."

Judge Robert Altman delivered a scolding tirade before finding Andrew O'Brien and Giles Harrison guilty of criminal charges brought after they chased the Schwarzeneggers through the streets near their home to photograph the star as he was recovering from heart surgery.

The photographers disputed the Schwarzeneggers' account of their car chase through Santa Monica last May, but Judge Altman said they had "crossed the legal line" by hemming the couple in on a busy street. He also accused O'Brien of having an "offensively acting like a jerk".

O'Brien, 31, and Harrison, 29, face up to two years in jail when sentenced later this month. Their case is one of the first involving California's false imprisonment law, designed to punish even fleeting instances of "unlawful restraint".

Gary Morgan, of the photographers' news agency, said yesterday: "Once again, Hollywood has shown that, where celebrities are involved, evidence means very little."

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**Teacher who had sex with boy, 13, is arrested again**

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# 'Fame and celebrity are not the same as being truly loved'

The birth of Madonna's child has fulfilled her. But still she yearns for a soulmate. By Bill Frost

From brazen temptress to doting mother — Madonna has reinvented herself yet again as the hype surrounding her latest record reaches fever pitch. In an interview for the current issue of *Vanity Fair*, together with a tender photograph of her with Lourdes, her 15-month-old daughter, reproduced here, La Ciccone muses on the joys of parenthood, unveils her new mummy look and reveals Lourdes will not be allowed to watch television: "TV is poison." Material Girl becomes Maternal Girl.

Not so surprising, perhaps, as many a new mother will agree. However, in another interview, in the current issue of the pop magazine *Q*, Madonna confesses that while she is reeling in the unconditional love of her child, true romantic love still eludes her. "I've been realising for years that the headiness of being swept up and being popular and loved by people in universal ways is no substitute for truly being loved. But if you have to have a substitute, it's about the best there is," she tells *Q*. She is, she adds with deliberate melodrama, "the Queen of despair".

Celebrity brought suspicion of others. Were they drawn to her because she was rich and famous? "That was a big part of it. Celebrity is a great aphrodisiac."

Still, Madonna harbours no disappointment or bitterness over previous partners — who include the actors Warren Beatty and Sean Penn and, most recently, an Englishman named Andrew Bird — whether or not it was she who walked out. "Rejection — doesn't everybody want the

thing they can't have? For fleeting moments of madness, that's all you want, and then you wake up, pull yourself together and move on.

"When you think about what I do and the kind of life I lead and the fact that I'm famous, I don't think it's a lifestyle that's very attractive to people, unless they're really superficial.

"I come with a lot of baggage and it takes a strong, courageous person to have a relationship with me."

For Madonna, there have been as many changes of image as there have been albums, but that's showbiz, especially when you are pushing 40. Still, if projections prove correct, she is again on course for platinum sales.

In these latest interviews she talks of her need for stability and spirituality. Her Catholic upbringing has reassured itself — Lourdes will be brought up in the faith and Madonna's contract now insists that a picture of the Pope will hang in her dressing room at every concert date.

At the birth of Lourdes — Lola, as her mother calls her — everything changed. Out went brattish behaviour, narcissism and sexual posturing; in came New Age motherhood. "Since the arrival of my daughter, I feel the fleetingness of time," she said last year. "I don't want to waste it on getting the perfect lip colour."

Only a cynic would suggest that this makeover could be linked to the release of *Ray of Light* — "a pumping, psychedelic, deeply personal collaboration with UK ambient dance specialist William Orbit," enthuses *Q*. Madonna insists that she has found God



Madonna and child: "Lourdes doesn't know about me being famous. It's completely unconditional love, which I've never known"



Warren Beatty: ex-lover Sean Penn: ex-husband Andrew Bird: latest lover Carlos Leon: Lourdes's father

— via Catholicism, Hinduism and Buddhism — and herself in the process.

Motherhood has been her making and she resents suggestions that Lola's father, Carlos Leon — a hunky fitness trainer she spotted while jogging — was little more than a glorified sperm donor.

Madonna admits that the father of their child has been damaged by suggestions that he was chosen from a gene

pool and then abandoned when he had served his purpose. "[The media] are keen to ignore the possibility that it might have something to do with love or feeling and make it all seem planned or manipulated or calculated, which is a notion that a lot of people seem to have about me," she tells *Q*.

"But falling in love or having a baby, I'd have thought that was one of the basic human things that anyone can relate to, and some people don't even want to let me have that. But that's OK, because I have my beautiful baby and they don't."

A song on her latest album — *Nothing Really Matters* — is dedicated to Lourdes. Madonna says the theme is the love between mother and child, but the tone is more bittersweet.

"Lourdes doesn't know about me being famous, she hasn't got a clue. And it's completely unconditional love, which I've never known because I grew up without a mother [Madonna Ciccone Sr died of breast cancer when her daughter was six]. I mean I did have my father, but I think the love you get from a mother is quite different.

"Motherhood has had a huge impact on me, as I suspect it has on everyone who has children. When you have children you have to step outside yourself. You can't sit around feeling sorry for yourself, or feeling like a victim in any way. You look at life from a different perspective.

"Lourdes kisses everything — dogs, strange people in the playground. She says 'dog' a lot, and 'no'. She is very good at saying 'no'."

opened to me', but on the other hand, it's a real cross to bear, the real thorn in my side. I wouldn't trade my life for anything — I've been blessed with so much — but being famous, it's like the agony and the ecstasy," she tells *Q*.

It would be surprising if Madonna had not undergone therapy. She still does, even though her attitude towards analysis is ambiguous. "Sometimes I think there's nothing new I'm going to figure out or that we are re-treading the same territory and I'll get fed up. And then a lightbulb will turn on about something and I'll have an epiphany. I don't always go, only when I think I need to."

"I felt despair many times, but I have good survival mechanisms. No matter how bad it gets, something stops me seeing life as completely

hopeless. I still indulge in lots of melancholy, though.

"I do believe that all paths lead to God. It's a shame that we end up having religious wars because so many of the messages are the same. The whole idea of karma and 'do unto others', it's all the same."

The new album, 'implores' others to seek redemption, too. The woman responsible for *Sex* — a book that never quite made it to the coffee table from the top shelf — now worries about the outlandish behaviour of others.

"There's more extreme behaviour as we approach 2000. People seem to be in two camps — one searching for something to anchor them spiritually, trying to evolve their own consciousness and figure out the bigger meaning of life, rather than 'OK, I'm here to make lots of money and have a good time'."

"If from all that chaos some positive message got out, then I won't," says Madonna, who in a previous incarnation sang "Papa don't preach".

It has been a painful rite of passage, though. "It's not terribly fun being a rebel or a pioneer; you become a target for everyone's fears. You have to be incredibly resilient, and there were times I wish I hadn't been so outspoken — it was so exhausting to constantly have to defend myself."

## Hold on to your purse

From the moment you step inside, clothes shops have you pegged. Jason Cowley reports

A decompression zone sounds like something you might encounter under water or in outer space. But in a shop? Well, the next time you enter any high street fashion store try pausing before you walk five paces and look around. What do you see in your immediate vicinity? Nothing for you are now in what retail psychologists call the "decompression zone": an empty, calming, regulated space at the front of a shop where you are given a few breathless seconds to relax into shopping mode before the bombs of hard-selling explode everywhere around you.

Maintaining these merchandise-free zones is expensive, especially as rents in many prime city centres can be as high as £500 per square foot, but vital. "They are what allow you to catch your breath and acclimatise

they might not realise it when they are on hard surfaces they move much faster. Blocking is very effective at encouraging impulse buys.

More than any other mode of shopping, perhaps with the exception of supermarkets, clothes shopping exposes us in a raft of psychological techniques designed to control our behaviour.

Stores such as Gap, Oasis and Benetton are spectacles of excess, where the shopper is literally assaulted by choice. Yet there is nothing contingent or random about them; they are carefully controlled environments — complex, demanding, manipulative, even mesmerising. "The white noise of light pots or Mizak, the signposting, the tilt of the lighting, the careful displaying of folded items, the positioning of special offers to your new environment," says Siarnack Salari, head of behavioural research at the advertising agency BMP DDB Ltd.

Once through the zone, you enter a region as regulated as a battlefield. The retailer, drawing on research which suggests that our natural inclination is to turn right ("evolutionary right syndrome"), will do everything — anything — to make a sale. As Matthew Bright, marketing director of the Metropolitan Design Group, which advises numerous retail outlets, says: "Do not be surprised to find the strongest retail offer just inside the door on the right-hand side."

Nor be surprised to find yourself being led around the store apparently against your own volition. Most retailers employ what they call "fast-tracking" routes — hard, flat, carpet-free tracks, criss-crossing the main sales area — to funnel shoppers as quickly as possible along the routes they want them to follow. This enables the introduction of "blocking" techniques, by which obstacles — usually tables full of bargains — are placed along fast routes, arresting our progress.

"It's an interesting fact that shoppers actually shop with their feet, as it were," says Mr Bright. "Although

everything is researched, coded, named, psychologically tested. Nothing is left to chance.

Many retailers opt to 'display folded' clothes. The idea is that once a customer has unfolded a garment, touched and engaged with it, so to speak, he or she may be more inclined to buy it. It takes spontaneity — and effort — to refold a garment once you have worn it. Can this be true?

"Most retailers follow a simple rule," says Mr Salari. "Once a garment is opened and touched, it is more likely to be tried on. That is why it's so important to have a policy of allowing shoppers to make a mess of certain areas, as long as you employ enough staff to tidy them up."

"Many women particularly enjoy carrying more than one garment around with them, as well as trying on lots of different outfits at the same time. This, I think, has a link to childhood, when many girls had fun dressing up in their parents' clothes."

But for all the in-store experiments, the shop window remains, says Mr Bright, "the most important area, because it acts as a billboard on the high street, a massive advertising feature."

Shop 'Till You Drop is on Channel 4 at 8pm on Tuesday.

© Nigella Lawson is on holiday

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1998

# 'I've been in revolt all my life'

**D**rawing is a meditation, fast or slow. With photography one is always on the crest of a wave, like a surfer, always struggling against time," says Henri Cartier-Bresson. He shows me, a shade unwillingly, his latest drawing, of a pensive male face, and, more openly, his latest photograph, criss-crossing ski tracks in snow, a bit like a Jackson Pollock painting.

The drawing is still not quite finished, he remarks, indicating a line that requires erasing and redrawing; while the photograph was seized in a split second a few weeks ago while travelling in a Swiss cablecar. He cocks his head and quickly frames one of his piercing, forget-me-not blue eyes with his hands as if holding his little Leica. Having noticed two small windows in the side of the téléphérique, he says, he stuck his head out of one, the camera out of the other, and snapped — in the insouciant manner, now legendary, set out half a century ago in his most famous book, *The Decisive Moment*.

We are talking in his mansion flat, high up in the heart of Paris, flooded by winter sunshine. The view, appropriately enough for a photographer so acutely responsive to form and geometry, is a magnificent vista of the Tuilleries Gardens with, to the right, the Eiffel Tower, to the left is the Louvre. From his balcony, Cartier-Bresson once saw a black, eel-shaped cloud balance itself with protractor-like accuracy on the tip of the tower. A friend found him watching the juxtaposition with childlike rapture and laughing softly, as if at some prank.

The photograph lies waiting to be packed into Cartier-Bresson's suitcase: it is a last-minute addition to the exhibition of almost 70 years of his photographs, *The Europeans*, that opens at the Hayward Gallery this week. The drawing, assuming that it finally satisfies his exacting standard, will appear in an exhibition of Cartier-Bresson paintings and drawings at the Royal College of Art, opening next month. Meanwhile, his celebrated photo-prints — ranging from Henri Matisse, Marilyn Monroe and Mahatma Gandhi, to completely unknown people from all over the world — are about to go on display



Les Diablerets, a Cartier-Bresson drawing from 1994

Throughout his long career, Henri Cartier-Bresson has been known for his remarkable images. They capture moments of joy, they surprise, they engage, they are often witty. They are classics. Yet Cartier-Bresson remains a shadowy and private figure. Now, as he approaches 90, a series of exhibitions will acknowledge his status as the icon of 20th-century photography. Today, Cartier-Bresson speaks exclusively to *The Times*, explaining how he now prefers drawing and painting to photography.

**Interview: Andrew Robinson**



Face of the artist: a Cartier-Bresson self portrait

## A farewell to Gandhi

THE two countries where Cartier-Bresson feels most at home are India and Mexico; they possess, he says, an extraordinary spirituality. Anyone who has seen his series of photographs of Gandhi, his assassination and funeral in 1948, will easily perceive Cartier-Bresson's affinity for India.

He met Gandhi on the afternoon of January 30, 1948, and showed him "like a salesman," he says now) his first book of photographs, which had been published by New York's Museum of Modern Art the previous year as the catalogue of a supposedly "posthumous" exhibition — the curators thought Cartier-Bresson had been killed in the war.

Gandhi looked through the book slowly, saying nothing until he came to a photo of a man gazing at an elaborate hearse. He asked: "What is the meaning of this picture?" Cartier-Bresson told him: "That's Paul Claudel, a Catholic poet very much concerned with the spiritual issues of life and death." Gandhi thought for a moment, and then said, very distinctly: "Death... death... death." Cartier-Bresson left at 4.45pm. Fifteen minutes later, the Mahatma was shot dead.

**'Think of the statues of Buddha, Henri — their eyes are almost always closed. But yours are almost always open'**

at the National Portrait Gallery in an exhibition wittily entitled *Tête-à-Tête*. Later in the year, after his ninetieth birthday in August, the Victoria and Albert Museum has planned an exhibition of 50 photographs from his entire career, selected, unlike the other three exhibitions, purely by Cartier-Bresson.

The art historian Sir Ernest Gombrich, introducing *Tête-à-Tête*, pays high tribute to Cartier-Bresson's photo-prints. "How will they look, once their ways of dressing and behaving have receded into the past? We cannot tell; but since we are not put off by the attire worn by the sitters of Titian, Van Dyck, Rembrandt or Velazquez, we can be confident that they will retain that spark of life that only a master was able to impart to the photographic portrait."

Cartier-Bresson himself leaves me in no doubt that drawing and painting matter to him today far more than photography. He brings out a postcard message from the American cartoonist Saul Steinberg (subject of a photo-portrait), taps it and says firmly that I should quote it. "Dear Heart... It seems that photography has been called a 'decoy, alibi, for your real thing.' When I comment that there is a not a single photograph on the walls of his room, only paintings, he is emphatic that he is not interested in photographs, only the act of shooting. He calls himself a "lousy journalist," and tells of



A classic Cartier-Bresson image: today the man who revolutionised the world of photography says that drawing and painting have become far more important to him

how he forgot to photograph the dancer Rudolf Nureyev's arrival in the West in 1961, so engrossed was he in the event itself.

Some 25 years have passed since Cartier-Bresson began to concentrate on painting. In 1966, he technically ceased to be a member of the world's most famous photo agency, which he founded in 1947 with the war photographer Robert Capa, David Seymour and George Rodger (all of them now dead). But he remains hugely influential in the agency's affairs and freely admits that he is joined to Magnum by "an umbilical cord" — not least because of his wife Martine Franck, also a well-known photographer, who is one of the few women too "macho" grumbles Cartier-Bresson: his wife agrees, but qualifies his criticism, as she often does when Henri expostulates, by remarking that once a woman has been elected as a member, she is treated as an equal.

Magnum was formed at a time of burgeoning photo-journalism, when people everywhere, awakened from the nightmare of war,

were at last able to indulge their insatiable curiosity about the rest of the world. With its collective ethic and its respect for the integrity of the photographic image ("no cropping" is an unbreakable Cartier-Bresson principle), Magnum did much to raise photography to the status of an art — although Cartier-Bresson distrusts that idea, preferring to see photographers as "artists".

Perhaps, as a born rebel ('I've been in revolt all my life, in favour of God knows what'), who is nevertheless unusually sensitive to tradition, he has inherited a little of the contempt for photography of his strict Norman grandfather. Even his father was "very embar-



The artist pictured at work by his wife, Martine Franck

assed" to say that his son was a photographer. Painting, by contrast, was considered respectable. A great-grandfather was an artist, so was an uncle. It was natural for Henri, who began painting as a teenager, failed his high-school diploma and made clear his lack of interest in the family textile firm, to study painting. He worked in Paris with the Surrealist André Lhote for a while, and also in Cambridge, but felt dissatisfied with his paintings and destroyed most of them (though not a good portrait of his Cambridge landlady, dated 1929).

Returning to Paris, he became passionately absorbed in avant-garde culture, most of his friends being writers or painters. He took his cue from Jean Renoir, for whom he worked as an assistant director on two films, one of which, *La Règle du Jeu*, has a good claim to be the greatest work of art in cinema: "He was a very warm man, very cultured, but he lacked pretentious intellectualism. Jean had an intelligence about everything, in the way that an animal is intelligent, and not cerebral. He was not a specialist of anything, except generosity, and life for him always came first."

Similar qualities first emerged in Cartier-Bresson's Mexican photographs, taken in 1934. Here, in the haunting faces of unknown men, women and children, surviving in a harshly beautiful, death-obsessed, religion-soaked land, the world first became aware of the arrival of a unique and original photographic eye that fused humanist and intellectual rigour. In far-away Calcutta, the teenage Saryajit Ray came across the images, credited simply "Cartier", in the French magazine *Verve* and became, in the words of Ray's foreword to *Henri Cartier-Bresson in India*, "an instant and lifelong aficionado".

Throughout his long and incredibly packed life, Cartier-Bresson felt the tension between the active life, such as the photographer's, and the meditative life, such as that of the painter. He speaks often of his attraction to Buddhism — while roundly denying that he is a Buddhist. He likes the idea that "life changes every minute, the world is born and dies every

minute"; and that "the only rule is that there is no rule". But the discrepancy between himself and orthodox Buddhists is perhaps best caught by his amused wife, who says that Henri belongs to the sect of Agitated Buddhists. ("She keeps me young," he remarks to me. "No," Martine corrects him fondly, "it's your brain.") And as an old French friend once told him: "But think about the statues of Buddha. Henri — their eyes are almost always closed, while yours are almost always open. They feel eternally grateful for those eyes, so in love with life. They have taken photographs that are mysteriously alive, balletic, and have created portraits that, at their finest, do indeed have the complex presence of the Old Masters."

How fascinating, then, that the master has never photographed himself. In fact he hates to be photographed by anyone, describing himself as "camera shy" — "do not do to me what I am doing to others."

**A**mong his most delightful portraits is one showing the broad back of the aged Matisse painting a portrait of a beautiful woman with a voluptuous bosom. Being a deep admirer of the sensuous forms of Matisse (who designed the glorious jacket of *The Decisive Moment* out of paper cutouts), Cartier-Bresson felt bothered by Matisse's describing as the culmination of his life's work the radiant stained glass at the Dominican chapel in Venice, "Monsieur Matisse," he finally ventured, "you have never shown any serious interest in religion, and you are all the time painting these oddalikes, these beautiful girls. Why didn't you decorate, instead of this Christian church, a Temple of Voluptuous Delight? Wouldn't that have suited your temperament better?" Matisse listened carefully, his face grew very serious, and then he said to Cartier-Bresson: "You are right, of course. But the only institution that would ever commission a Temple of Voluptuous Delight is the French Republic, and no French government has ever made me the offer."

● *Andrew Robinson is literary editor, The Times Higher Education Supplement.*

● *Exhibitions: Hayward Gallery, Feb 5-April 5; National Portrait Gallery, Feb 20-June 7; Royal College of Art, March 6-April 6; V&A, Nov 20-April 12, 1999 and Books: all published by Thames and Hudson; Henri Cartier-Bresson, Europeans, Jean Clair, £30.95; Tête-à-Tête: Portraits by Henri Cartier-Bresson, E.H. Gombrich, £32*

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# Send for the Marines to humble Iraq

Lawrence Freedman says Saddam can't be coerced by air power alone

In terms that might appeal to President Clinton, one leading American defence analyst once noted the similarities between the contemporary uses of air power and seduction: they both allow for instant gratification without long-term commitment. The almost leisurely build-up to the next round of missile strikes and air raids against Iraq indicates a lack of doubt on the allied side that they can hit their targets without being seriously inconvenienced by Iraqi defences. Surprise is no longer a prerequisite. Yet the extended diplomatic preliminaries also betray real doubts as to whether any lasting benefits can result from these attacks.

President Saddam Hussein is making the most of his weakness. He cannot stop his country being attacked, but he can hope to deny his enemies their objectives: at least, they want to deny him weapons of mass destruction and, at most, to topple him from power. The official position of the United States and Britain is that they are concerned only with supporting the United Nations inspectors as they seek out production and storage facilities for chemical and biological weapons. Their problem is that they can only persuade the Iraqi leader to grant them access by threatening his regime. Much is at stake here. The UN team believes that Iraq is manufacturing biological material such as anthrax or botulin toxin at levels sufficient to cause human suffering on a massive scale. This is almost Saddam's last card if he still wants to be taken seriously as a force to be reckoned with. As Richard Murphy, the former US Assistant Secretary of State, has observed, the priority attached to this capability has been sufficient for the Iraqi leader to forgo a minimum of \$100 billion (\$60 billion) in oil revenues. His other card is that he is the man who can stand up to the mighty power of the Americans and survive. To this extent, he might almost welcome a military attack, so long as it can be absorbed without undermining the fragile foundations of his regime.

The dogged pursuit of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has removed its capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons and the bulk of its missile capability, as well as impeding its production of chemical and biological weapons. The present crisis is particularly difficult because a point has been reached where Iraqi systems remain substantial but cannot be destroyed by air raids. They can be readily stored and easily concealed and are portable. The laboratories can be dismantled and reassembled. Facilities have been identified that are probably connected to weapons of mass destruction, but attacking them carries the risk of destroying something apparently innocent without making any material difference to any Iraqi programme.

Accordingly, the Americans have been indicating that any strikes will be less geared to

solving the problem by destroying offending sites, than to coercing Saddam into complying with the demands of the weapons teams. The idea is to follow three or four days of bombing and missile attacks with a pause during which Saddam is asked if he is ready to yield.

In addition to air defences and military command centres, which are always attacked in these circumstances, and those weapons facilities that have been confidently identified, there are two other types of targets. The first are the so-called presidential palaces, of which there are eight, and to which UN inspectors have been denied access. Attacking palaces sounds uncomfortable like co-ordinated strikes against Sandringham, Balmoral, Windsor and Buckingham Palace. However, while these palaces have some opulent buildings, they are often more like army compounds, and places for the political elite to live and work. The difficulty with attacking them is the high risk of civilian casualties — many Iraqis have "volunteered" to "protect" them — and of making the campaign appear like a personal vendetta against Saddam. The other targets are those connected with the Republican Guard units, and the security and intelligence services, who are charged with protecting the chemical and biological programme and the regime itself. It would certainly be necessary to destroy large amounts of equipment and ammunition to mount effective attacks on such targets. Knocking down buildings is not the same as eliminating a repressive political apparatus.

## Punitive bombing is risky for the allies

To be effective a coercive campaign of this sort must hurt but, if it appears to be excessively punitive — and produces no obvious results — the political costs could be greater for the allies than for Saddam. Indeed, his greatest prize would be the final collapse of the coalition that faced him in 1991 and the end of the UN effort designed to keep him weak and contain his future power plays. In all this he may well be optimistic. In the end, few countries consider relations with Iraq more important than relations with the United States. Nonetheless, the allies are in an awkward position because they are forced to rely solely on air power. This limits their military options and obliges them to depend on coercion. Sending troops into Iraq would be an altogether more serious operation and would risk serious casualties on the allied side. There is little stomach for it in the United States. Yet it may well be that the best way to convince the Iraqi leader that he should allow the weapons inspectors to roam his country as they choose would be to announce the sending of a US Marine taskforce to the Gulf.

The author is Professor of War Studies at King's College, London.



# Privatisation: it's over

New Labour is simply reinventing public ownership under another logo

If I were in the swindle game I would sell privatisation shares at once. The gold has been stripped from the statues. The Van Dycks have vanished from the walls. The Cavaliers have loaded their carriages and taken to the hills. Grim-faced Roundheads are clanking through the Great Hall, commissions of seizure in hand. Ask them their business and they will shrug. There is the task that dares not breathe its name. The name is renationalisation.

On Monday Richard Branson punched the air outside the High Court to celebrate his victory over Guy Snowden, the lottery mogul. His message was simple: to hand a grotesque profit to a man for the minimal risk of running a national lottery was an outrage. We can be sure no government will do that again. Two days earlier, the company seeking to build the high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel, London and Continental, collapsed into the Government's lap. The project was at the mercy of too many Whitehall indecisions and simply ran out of cash. A week beforehand, John Prescott, the Transport Secretary, abandoned Tory plans to privatise the London Underground. He seemed to realise that private capital would never build the capital's Crossrail tunnel. He still seemed to think that private money might upgrade the existing tunnels. Nobody agrees. Never again will serious money put itself at risk in this way to government waywardness and indecision. The Channel Tunnel disaster was a privatisation too far. It was an ideological Waterloo.

History loves a truly monumental irony. The privatisation train, invented by the Tories, has hit the buffers just when its fiercest foe, the Labour Party, had apparently climbed aboard. Britain, worldwide pioneer in flogging public assets to cut taxes and raise efficiency, is now leading the retreat. "UK-style" privatisation may still be the rage in Germany and Spain, in Australasia and Latin America, in Sri Lanka and Uttar Pradesh. But in the land of its birth it is looking sick. What has gone wrong? The answer is that privatisation was eventually a boy sent on a man's errand. In the 1980s Margaret Thatcher's love affair with capitalism became an infatuation. The disciplines of the market proved well suited to two forms of public-sector industry. First were those obviously unsuited to the culture of govern-

ment, such as cars, ships, steel, docks, buses, planes, telephones and computers. They benefited vastly from privatisation and their message circled the globe.

Second were activities that government needed still to control, regulate and possibly finance, but where subcontractors might promote value for money. Most were monopolies or quasi-monopolies. They included energy suppliers, water works, train services, television franchises. Some had their assets sold, some leased, some franchised. All were controversial because a wide section of the public felt them to be in some sense public property. Government struggled to keep control on prices and profits. Whether such privatisation constituted "denationalisation" was moot. I believe that as long as the State controls the rate of return on an asset and the quality of service to the public, that service is de facto nationalised. The most shameful Tory privatisation, that of British Rail, is now offering a privatised one, now a public one again. Each year ministers intervene to change the terms of trade. It was amazing that any private consortium was interested, other than on a cost-plus basis. The risk involved was not so much commercial as political. It was the risk of government indecision and changes of mind. That is the sort of risk that always attends big projects, and it is a risk government must carry itself (though in some countries it is covered by corruption).

Privatisation is still widely misunderstood. To the Tories, private entrepreneurs were starchy-eyed Midases who could transform the efficiency of everything they touched. This was true of some, like those operating in competitive industries such as coaches. But entrepreneurial motivation responds to the nature of the privatisation. A rail company boss neither owns its trains nor its stations and has only a short-run franchise. His board is well-advised to take as much

money as it can in the time available and run. That is sensible capitalism, just as it was idiotic privatisation. New Labour saw capitalists in a different light, as millionaires who would free them from Treasury dogma. They would forge a "partnership with the people". Yet today's private financial sector, such as the bruised souls who supported the Channel Tunnel, is composed mostly of nervous guardians of the nation's pensions and savings. Above all they are risk-averse. If they are to back a big project they will expect a huge return, of 20 to 25 per cent. This is a ridiculously bad deal for the public sector, especially in London where local businesses and ratepayers appear only too ready to pay higher taxes for better transport. It makes no sense for essential projects, whether tunnels, hospitals or bridges, to have to bear risk capital charges.

In his new book, *The Commanding Heights*, the American writer Daniel Yergin takes a voyage along this embattled frontier between government and the marketplace. He concludes that the public sector still has more appealing issues than the private, including "dignity and social betterment, justice and fairness", and the scope for concerted collective action. To Yergin, the appeal of the marketplace is more subtle. It must argue that the sum of individual self-interests is greater than that of a collectivist whole. So far, so convincing. There has been a worldwide shift from governments to private enterprise, from the state to markets. But will it hold?

A sensible observer must accept that markets must deliver the goods for the answer to be yes. The goods must go to the many, not just the few. If markets are seen to have failed there will be a backlash that will take the form of a return to state intervention. This week Britain has watched that backlash begin. Yet it has started not because the private sector has failed, but because government willed on the private sector superhuman tasks for which it was unprepared. Lotteries, train tracks and Undergrounds are properly public projects. In each case privatisation has become deeply unpopular.

Perhaps Britain does not really need a high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel. But ten years ago we decided to build one and we failed. We are now as far from that goal as ever. We are told to think ourselves cool. Sometimes we are merely stung.

Simon Jenkins

# Punch drunk

AN INTRIGUING letter has fluttered into Diary Towers. And it raises a question: what is Mohamed Al Fayed up to? Similar letters have been sent by the editor of his magazine *Punch* to neighbours of Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio. While "writing an extensive profile of Peter Mandelson, journalists from *Punch* approached Mr Mandelson's neighbours", the letter states. "Apparently a number of neighbours have since complained of harassment" to the Press Complaints Commission. Quite why the magazine should wish to interview householders near the minister's West London home is a mystery. As a bachelor of great repute, Mr Mandelson's personal activities are a matter for him, as he has always told nosy residents of Crub Street. So is Mr Al Fayed trying to unsettle the Labour Government just as he did the Tories? The magazine insists that its inquiries are inspired purely by journalistic interest and that its "veteran reporters" behaved properly. Sources there suggest that the complaints were inspired by Mr Mandelson, who used his influence with the commission to stamp on the magazine.

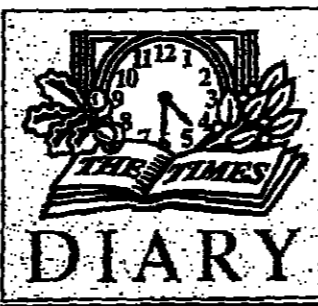
This, though, is denied by the minister. "The magazine has upset neighbours rather than Peter himself," says an aide. Guy Black, the commission's director, confirms that he telephoned James Steen, the editor of *Punch*, but says he was not encouraged to do so by Mr



Up in arms? *Punch* and Peter

Mandelson. "A number of neighbours rang up about the code," Mr Black says. "I rang the editor to make sure that he was aware about the rules regarding harassment. I know Peter Mandelson and talk to him, but we have not spoken about this."

TONY BANKS and Tom Clarke have bagged two new ministerial offices. The cost? £41,000. While this may amount to little more than a roll of wallpaper for the



Lord Chancellor, economy was not helped by an overheating vacuum cleaner that burnt a carpet in Mr Clarke's office.

## Soul search

A VICAR with a liberal reputation is to become a paid "spiritual adviser" to Rio Tinto, the global mining company which has been attacked for its record on human rights and the environment. Donald Reeves, rector of St James's, Piccadilly, is to help the multinational find its "soul". Reeves, who has already visited two of its mines in Namibia and South Africa, has been vicar at St James's for 17 years and is looking for a new career after his retirement. The company has even been accused of precipitating a civil war in the Indonesian island of Bougainville. Reeves's

companions are usually less corporate; his church was used to launch something called Action for Gay and Lesbian Ordination. "Has Rio Tinto got a soul? Is it possible for a company to have a soul? These are the questions I shall try to answer," says Reeves. "Like any business it occasionally makes mistakes but it is now as good a corporate citizen as any. Conceptions about the company are out of date." Says the company: "We want to utilise his independent thinking. I don't see this as a PR exercise. I have no doubt he will have considerable influence."

AFTER my note about Lord Thurso growing too small for his suits since taking over Champneys health farm, a fellow peer felt moved to help. "I was in the chamber speaking when an attendant pushed a note into my hand," Thurso tells me. "It was recommending a Savile Row tailor."

## Trading up

BRITAIN'S most expensive estate is to be put up for sale. The Earl of Mulgrave is to ask £35 million for Warton Priory on the Yorkshire Wolds. The 11,000-acre estate east of York contains 63 homes and is to be sold by Savilles, who are shortly to tell the staff. "It is the largest in-



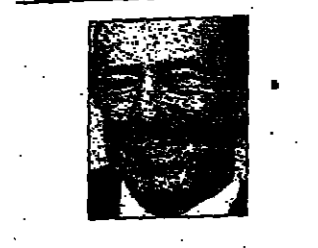
ANARCHIST pop combo Chumbawamba have caused the PM to reconsider his enthusiasm for Britpop. This Monday's Brit Awards will not be graced by Tony Blair despite negotiations, which broke down when news of live performers stepped out. Chumbawamba, who denounced Labour on children's television, had intended to ambush Blair with a silly rant.

hand estate in England with a magnificent shoot which the earl's father bought from the Vestey family," says George Inge of Savilles. "It did have a very big house but the father knocked it down — it was just too large." This is no story of aristocratic decline. Mulgrave, 42,

better known as the novelist *Carnegie* Phipps, who has written *Careful With The Sharks*, is selling because "he wants to concentrate on his other 50,000-acre Yorkshire estate at Mulgrave Castle".

JASPER GERARD

## Alan Coren



Smoking jacket, fez — and thou beside me, buddy

Atop a gunmetal filing cabinet, in a corner of my attic sweatshop, sits a fez. It has sat there for more than a decade now, ever since it was brought back by my daughter from a school trip to somewhere fezzey. Morocco I think, where it had suddenly come upon her that the Tommy Cooper impressions I was then wont to do at the drop of a hat might be given some semblance of credibility if I had the right hat to drop. Sadly — though only, at a guess, for me — she proved to be so mistaken in this that I gave up doing Tommy Cooper impressions altogether, and put the fez on top of the filing cabinet, whence it has never since budged.

A pity, that, because it is a fine fez, red felt, silk-lined, black-tasselled, so born to be worn that hardly a day in the past dozen years has gone by without my gazing at it and wondering whether there would ever be an occasion when I might be called upon to wear it.

And, do you know, I rather believe that that occasion is about to come? As to the date of its coming, there is no about about it, it is a very big date indeed, it is as big a date as any of us will ever see; it is none other than January 1, 2000, that's how big a date it is. But — since I hear the crack of readers' flexing knees as they prepare to leap to conclusions — the answer is no, I shall not be sporting the fez at some tacky fancy-dress thrash. I do not plan to usher in the millennium as a bad Tommy Cooper or a worse King Farouk. I shall be wearing it up here in the loft, and I shall be wearing it as me.

Because I want my computer to be happy. What else would I want for something which wants me to be happy, too? I know it wants this from its behaviour every morning, when, solitary in the big empty house, I trudge up to the attic beneath the weight of glum infertility, plunk down before it, and flick its switch. Whereupon it plays a merry little jig, throws Mr. Smiley's face up its screen, and bids me welcome. It wants me to feel good. It wants to assure me that I am not alone. It wants me to know I have a buddy, there to share my burden; it will help me out if I will find words for me, correct errors, transpose sentences, check references, set paragraphs, count lines, number pages, and, when we are both content with what we have jointly cobbled, it will print our stuff out while I relax, light a cig, and sip my coffee. We are a team.

You will thus understand why I should be so worried whether we will still be a team on January 1, 2000. For, a little earlier this morning, a man on Radio 4 interrupted my shaving with a remark that froze the very foam to my cheek: invited to explain the millennium bug, the man replied: "Put simply, it means that on January 1, 2000, computers will think it is January 1, 1900."

I stupefied off, stricken, towelled as in a trance, ran up here to the loft and looked at my buddy, frantically with "impossibility over what should happen when, on that all-too-famous date, I switched it on. It would wonder for a nano-second, where it was, and then, erroneously, twig. It would think it was a member of an empire on which the sun never set, it would rejoice in the goodness of God, the gentleness of women, the civility of men, the probity of government, the imperishability of monarchy, the sanctity of marriage. Unashamedly patriotic to its core, it would believe its countryside the greenest, its waters the purest, its sportsmen the finest, its newspapers the truest."

And what would it expect of me? It would expect a Victorian man of letters, Not, that is, a dishevelled, hack in tracksuit and trainers, dog-eared bobbing as he curses at his mangle worktop to the bong of his filthy radiator, but an impeccable dandy, in gilded moustaches and vested monstaches, lolling elegantly at his inlaid escriptorie and drawing on a hand-rolled — Business Stogey while the Irish wolfhound by his roaring, fire pipes devotedly upon this exquisite figure in the quilted velvet smoking jacket, the lace-cuffed chemise, the brocade pantaloons, the silken hose beneath the Turkish slippers. And, deignit, the fez.

Well, I cannot do the rest, come Millennium Day; but I can at least do the fez. It may offer my buddy a brief moment of reassurance, before I begin to drag it, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century.





## THE COMMONS TOUCH

Tories need more thought and less trivia

Over the next few days Tony Blair will be in Washington, battered as few before him by President Clinton and engaged in deliberations at the highest levels on the crisis in Iraq, the implications of the Asian economic collapse, and the future of the Balkans. The Conservative Party at Westminster will today initiate a debate about Robin Cook's sleeping and secretarial arrangements. Tomorrow, Tory questions to the President of the Board of Trade will probably centre on the alleged cost of Margaret Beckett's official bathroom. There is a contrast here and it is not one that reflects well on the Opposition.

It is also not the only contradiction of note. The most striking of all is the difference in style and tone between the words of William Hague outside the House of Commons and the tactics employed by his colleagues within it. Mr Hague has made a set of speeches — at his party conference, on economics at the CBI and about social policy to the influential Social Market Foundation — that have been substantive in content and impressive in delivery. He has sensibly distanced himself from the most discredited aspects of his political inheritance and displayed a refreshing willingness to think anew. His drive to reform the internal machinery of the Conservative Party, although deficient in democratic credibility still in some spheres, has enhanced that broadly positive impression.

The Conservative Party in Parliament has, for the last six months, followed a different route. This week's "assault" on Mr Cook and Mrs Beckett is part of a pattern of parliamentary opposition that is overly intense and frenetic, obsessed with the short term, abrasive in presentation, trivial in the choice of material, and ultimately incredible. Its objective, as far as one can discern, is to paint Labour as at least as ethically challenged as the Major Administration. This relative moral position is, apparently, to be the basis of a Tory political recovery. There are at least three defects in this

strategy. First, in its own terms it is counterproductive. The public may be willing to acknowledge that Labour is less than perfect, but it does not, for now, want to receive that message from the Tories. Mr Hague should let the tabloid press make the running on such questions. Second, the "low road" at Westminster does not sit very well with the "high road" that Mr Hague wants to set in the country. He has admitted, and must continue to acknowledge, that there was a sleaze problem in the last Parliament and that he will ensure it is not repeated. This humility is undermined by the heavy squad in the House. Third, there is not the slightest shred of polling evidence that it is working.

There is an alternative approach that the Conservatives should consider. It would aim to demonstrate that Mr Blair presides over a divided Government. The Tories should exploit the personal differences between senior figures at the centre of Whitehall and the policy distinctions — on economics, Europe, and welfare reform — that are related to them. This would entail not constant outright opposition but periodic alliances with alternative parts of the Labour Party to maximise the Prime Minister's internal difficulties. Conservatives should side with the Labour left against recession-inducing interest rate increases and the introduction of the euro and embrace the Blairites on education standards and radical welfare reform.

A Conservative recovery requires two elements. The electorate would have to be persuaded that, for all its public relations skill, Labour was ineffective in office and that the Tories had recognised past mistakes and would be more attractive in the future. A focus on Mr Cook's fidelity and Mrs Beckett's furniture will not assist matters. A more sophisticated strategy — "split not spit" — is needed. Mr Hague has, rightly, accepted the logic of this argument on welfare reform. It is in his interests to take it further.

## UNHAPPY RETURNS

The Prince of Wales visits a troubled island

Sri Lanka is marking the fiftieth anniversary of its independence in dismal mood. The war with the Tamil Tigers continues at a cost of £10 million a week. The economy, which would otherwise be thriving, is stunted. Bomb attacks, killings and terrorism have reached into Colombo and have struck at the shrine of the island's Sinhalese culture at Kandy. The Government appears powerless to force through its proposals for Tamil devolution, the opposition is intransigent and the country is now looking into the abyss of unending warfare. Both India and Pakistan marked independence last year with a sombre look at lost opportunities and wasted politics. For Sri Lanka, the meagre results since Ceylon became a sovereign state are even more galling.

It looked so different 50 years ago. On the eve of independence, the island had one of the richest economies in Asia. The separation from Britain was largely peaceful, literacy was high and life spans were long. Ceylon tea was the best in the world and rubber and coconut plantations were thriving. Lee Kuan Yew spoke of Ceylon as a model for his country. Now Singapore has a per capita gross domestic product of more than \$20,000 whereas in war-ravaged Sri Lanka it is only \$3,200. What has gone wrong?

The nationalism and ethnic tension which by 1948 seemed under control were allowed free rein. The decision by the Sinhalese majority in 1956 — since rescinded — to promulgate a Sinhala-only language policy provoked a backlash from the Tamils, accounting for 18 per cent of the population. Solomon Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister, was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in 1959, and a Marxist rebellion in 1971 was crushed with the loss of up to 10,000 lives.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam demanded a separate state in the north and east in 1975, and launched a terrorist uprising that has since claimed thousands of lives, led to the assassination of another leader, President Premadasa, in 1989, drawn the Indian forces into the civil war in a disastrous attempt to broker peace in the north and indirectly led to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, in 1991.

The Tamil Tigers, with large fund-raising operations in Britain and Canada, are a ruthless organisation that has successfully radicalised the conflict. After anti-Tamil riots and attacks that forced thousands of Tamils to flee north, little room was left to moderate ready for negotiation. The Tigers are, however, a diminished force, reduced to a hard core of 2,000 fighters and recruiting children in attempts to keep up their numbers. They have suffered military defeat in the north, lost control of Jaffna and have been decisively rejected by the large numbers that turned out to vote recently in Jaffna despite the devastation of the town and the misery of its inhabitants.

The ceremonies Prince Charles attends today are being held in an atmosphere of apprehension. President Chandrika Kumaratunga has bravely proposed far-reaching devolution for the Tamils in the teeth of Sinhalese nationalist opposition. She has a majority of only one, however, and the opposition is likely to sabotage this last hope for a peaceful settlement. Personally popular, her Government will probably limp on until elections in two years. But with no end to the war, Sri Lanka has little chance of catching up the South-East Asian economies to which it aspires. Hatred has blighted the landscape. Sri Lanka has little to celebrate.

## IT SHOULD BE HIM

The lottery regulator makes an overdue departure

The process has taken too long and should not have required a court case, as the ultimate catalyst but the departure of Peter Davis as the national lottery regulator is welcome all the same. His continued tenure would have been little short of disgraceful. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport spent a number of hours with Mr Davis before making it clear that his services were no longer required. Mr Smith has faced criticism, much of it legitimate, for his handling of previous issues relating to the lottery. His decisive intervention in this case has restored his authority, and, of much more importance, rescued the credibility of the game itself.

Mr Davis has had more fortune than the average lottery winner. The odds, though, have rightly caught up with him. His office was, it should be conceded, flawed before he occupied it. The idea that the same person should choose an operator, then assess the performance of that company and effectively exercise control over the profitability of the corporation concerned was utterly inappropriate. It is hardly a model of public regulation that should be adopted elsewhere. It is to be hoped that future legislation will ensure that such a transparent conflict of interests is not repeated.

Nevertheless, design faults alone cannot be held responsible for this fiasco. As *The Times* has consistently noted, Mr Davis has brought his own independence and judg-

ment into question by the decisions that he made alone. He should have been more suspicious of the original Camelot bid. He acknowledged in court that the role of GTEch had troubled him but he chose to tolerate it. His subsequent willingness to accept free flights and other forms of hospitality from GTEch compounded the original error. Virginia Bottomley should have sacked him two years ago. Mr Smith has finally done the decent thing.

Richard Branson's famous legal victory has now removed Guy Snowden from the Camelot board and Mr Davis from his position. Attention will now turn to Camelot itself. It is unclear whether Mr Smith has the authority to terminate current contractual arrangements. He should certainly insist in the interim that the entire GTEch operation, not merely Mr Snowden, is detached from Camelot's structure. Anything less would be an insult to a jury that took so little time to reach such a significant conclusion.

The departure of Mr Davis will not, in itself, restore full confidence in the national lottery. It was, however, a minimum condition for the commencement of that process. It is important that the full implications of the Branson case are recognised and acted upon. The new director-general must ensure that he is associated with the interests of those who play the game. Mr Smith acted wisely yesterday. There is more that he must do.

## Threat of military strikes on Iraq

From Miss A. M. S. Hutton-Wilson

Sir, While the West is quick to blame Saddam for initiating the present crisis, the question remains as to why, given the seriousness of the implications, the UNSCOM inspection team was composed so largely of British and Americans when it must have been possible to safeguard the success of the mission by deploying UN experts from neutral countries. Whether by design or not, the composition of the team has offered an excuse for confrontation by either side at any time of their choosing.

As well as his military capabilities, Saddam possesses an uncannily accurate map of the moral faultlines in Western strategy, holding a mirror to the high-sounding yet empty threats and promises of his opponents (as the Kurds, the Shia Muslims and the Marsh Arabs know to their cost).

A trap has been set; but to the ordinary onlooker it is far from clear whether it is an American one into which Saddam has walked, or the other way round. Nor is it clear who, if anyone, will benefit from such a perilous engagement.

Yours faithfully,  
A. M. S. HUTTON-WILSON,  
Priory Cottage, Church View,  
Evercreech, Somerset BA4 6HX,  
February 2.

From Professor Patrick Collinson

Sir, We turn on our radios and are told that "the international community" is very likely to take military action against Iraq, but it appears that the international community consists of the United States and ourselves.

Seven years ago I wrote to the press, using the words "never again". As a protester against that first Gulf War I was taken to task, especially by military historians and strategists, as well as some international lawyers, who (very properly) charged me with ignorance and advised me (not so properly) to shut up and stick to my subject, which is 16th-century history.

I shall be very grateful if the experts could now explain to me what the latest round of punitive strikes which is seriously proposed is supposed to achieve, so that those of us who voted for this Government may know how wisely our money, and probably a great many lives, especially innocent Iraqi lives, are to be spent.

Yours ever,  
PATRICK COLLINSON,  
Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ,  
February 1.

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, On March 1, 1991, in the immediate aftermath of Operation Desert Storm, you published a letter from me which averred that "the theory that President Saddam Hussein could lose the war but proceed to win the peace by surviving with his domestic power base intact and his prestige among Arabs soaring has been all but vindicated by President Bush's decision to announce a ceasefire". Clearly the use of military force against Iraq had proved only to be a technical success because Saddam had survived to fight another day.

Moreover, any idea that Saddam's retention of power would help to maintain a delicate balance of power in the region has now been palpably discredited. Seven years later, the US is about to embark on further military action to deal with Saddam's obstruction of UN weapons inspectors by "actively seeking to topple him" (report, January 31).

The speculation is that US-UK military strikes will bring about a military coup leading to a post-Saddam regime, perhaps more pliant or disposed towards maintaining the status quo in the region and obeying UN edicts. This benign outcome is unlikely but, were it to be realised, then previous politico-strategic errors in American policy must not be repeated.

President Clinton should avoid repeating Bush's lamentable encouragement of a rebellion on the part of the Kurds and Shias and refrain from calling on the Iraqi masses to challenge the new military regime waiting in the wings.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,  
Director, The Institute of Economic and Political Studies,  
Warkworth House,  
Warkworth Terrace,  
Cambridge CB1 1EE,  
February 2.

## Williams the play

From Mr Peter Sutton

Sir, The late Emily Williams would be amused by the reference to him in today's obituary for Edward Craig. "In 1935, he had designed the decor for Emily Williams's play *Night Must Fall*."

This reminds me of a postcard Emily sent whilst performing his one-man show on the cruise liner *Sea Princess*:

My trunk has arrived in my cabin addressed E. WILLIAMS SEA PRINCESS. Who do they expect? ESTHER!!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER SUTTON,  
12 Hamilton House,  
Vicarage Gate, W8 4HL,  
January 29.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Witchcraft on trial at the Old Bailey

From Mr James Nice

Sir, Your report (January 31) the campaign to seek pardon for the medium Helen Duncan, who was prosecuted under the Witchcraft Act of 1735 at the Old Bailey in March 1944.

Although the Act seems to have been invoked only half a dozen times since this century, prior to its abolition in 1951, Duncan's prosecution was not the last: the case of a 73-year-old woman named Jane Yorkie was heard in September 1944 in the same courtroom.

Helen Duncan was no stranger to the criminal courts, having been tried and convicted at Edinburgh in 1933 for obtaining money by false pretences. Following a later raid on a Nottingham seance being staged by Duncan in October 1936 a file was passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions, although Duncan succumbed to heart disease and diabetes before charges were pressed.

I think it is exaggerating to suggest that the authorities were concerned that Duncan would disclose sensitive military information about the Second Front, or that Churchill's interest in the case extended beyond concern at what was a palpable waste of public money. The fact is that after 1900 the Witchcraft Act was employed only where the prosecuting authority (a) considered summary conviction under the Vagrancy Acts to be inadequate on the facts of a particular case, and/or (b) wished to increase the amount of adverse publicity that might attach to the name of a particular defendant by branding them a witch, and not merely a fraud.

In this respect the practice smacked of the stocks, and was hardly to be applauded. However, it was one favoured by the Chief Constable of Portsmouth, who in January 1939, five years before charging Duncan, secured another conviction under the 1735 Act of a Gypsy named Bessy Birch, the background to which involved alleged spell-magic rather than palmistry or spiritualism.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES NICE,  
5 St Matthews Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1SP,  
January 31.

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, As it has fought superstition for the last 130 years, it is perhaps surprising that this society is lining up with "psychics" and believers in the supernatural to campaign for a pardon for Helen Duncan. We have

## Control of countryside

From Mr Peter Luff, MP for Mid West Wiltshire (Conservative)

Sir, If there is a "Whitehall struggle for control of the countryside" (report, February 3) it is one that Jack Cunningham must win.

In a unanimous report published in December, the all-party Commons Agriculture Committee strongly recommended the creation of a Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Affairs and Fisheries, bringing all the countryside agencies and policies together in one department.

Such a department would, in the report's words, ensure that there is "a single champion of rural communities" and that rural affairs are kept at the heart of government.

We must also remember that the common agricultural policy is slowly evolving into a more broadly based rural policy. It will remain essential for Britain to have a minister of Cabinet rank negotiating in the Council of Ministers over the distribution of such a major slice of European Union expenditure. Only a Minister of Rural Affairs can credibly do this.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER LUFF (Chairman,  
Agriculture Select Committee),  
House of Commons,  
February 3.

## Al Fayed and Lib Dems

From Mr Alex Carlile, QC

Sir, Your diarist ("Over and out", February 2) states that exquisite selectivity which makes newspaper diaries a good read but a bad story?

Mr Al Fayed's proposed personal donation to the Liberal Democrats before the 1997 general election was generous, unsolicited and reported to Paddy Ashdown. No strings were attached, save the desire on Mr Al Fayed's part that the Liberal Democrats should continue on their existing and determined political path under Mr Ashdown's remarkable leadership, and the offer was made on the clear understanding that, if accepted, its size and source would be made public at the time of donation — a course un-

## Full house

From Mr Brian Hughes

Sir, Noting that M&C Saatchi have been picked to promote Bethlehem's millennium celebrations (report, January 26), I am struck by a sense of déjà-vu. Already we can be sure that there will be no room at the inn.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN HUGHES,  
7 Harles Acres,  
Hickling, Melton-Mowbray,  
Leicestershire LE14 3AF,  
January 27.

made representations to the Home Office to this effect.

Unlike the supernaturalists, however, we do not believe that Mrs Duncan was possessed of any "paranormal" abilities. We, instead, take Winston Churchill's view that witchcraft is "obsolete tomfoolery". It should not be subject to the law — unless it is being used for exploitation — because that would make the courts complicit in giving credence to such nonsense.

The continued upholding of this woman's conviction for pretending to raise the spirits of the dead simply supports the idea that such baloney rescue the law from this humiliation immediately.

Yours etc,  
KEITH PORTEOUS WOOD,  
General Secretary,  
National Secular Society,  
Bradleigh House,  
47 Theobald's Road, WC1X 8SP,  
January 31.

From Mr Richard D. Ostler

Sir, The offence for which Helen Duncan went on trial occurred in Portsmouth; hence the comment by the then Chief Constable, Mr Arthur Charles West, that she was a "past master in the art of fraud" and "an unmitigated humbug, who could only be regarded as a pest to a particular section of society".

As a police cadet in the Portsmouth City Police Photographic and Fingerprint Branch in 1951-52 I remember seeing the file on Duncan and all the photographs of draped muslin (used with back lighting to simulate ectoplasm) shown hidden behind curtains. She was then living in a very ordinary house in Southsea — a district of Portsmouth — and her husband operated the props which, presumably, fooled her followers into believing that she was really making contact with the dead.

There must have been many highly susceptible and anxious people in Portsmouth, our premier naval port, who would be prepared to pay money to get news of their loved ones reported missing or lost during the war.

I very much doubt that there can be any reasonable cause for a pardon being granted to someone who simply preyed upon the fears of others in their most troubled times.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD D. OSTLER,  
Specialist House,  
52-54 Northern Road, Cosham,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 3DP,  
February 2.

## Free to roam

From Mr Angus Irvine

Sir, Our old farm dog disappeared recently while I was cutting and laying the hedge running along the road which divides our farm.

After some anxious days of searching we discovered that she had been picked up by the council's dog warden close by our farm buildings. To extract her from kennels ten miles away we had to pay a fine of £47 in respect of her crimes of being untagged and trespassing on the public highway.

This dog is a veteran of 18 years and has been crossing from one side of the road to the other all her life. If farmers cannot allow their dogs to be loose around their buildings it will be even more difficult to combat the increasing number of farm thefts.

If the Wild Mammals Bill becomes law, not only farmers but everyone else may have to keep their dogs on leads in the countryside. Perhaps those who decide the new rules of our "nanny state" would prefer us to install surveillance cameras, padlock all our gates, and bring in security guards.

Yours sincerely,  
ANGUS IRVINE,  
Nil Farm, Hook Norton,  
Oxfordshire OX15 5DQ,  
February 2.

## Churches off course

From Mr Richard Wells

Sir, The Church of England wants a course on how to run churches using business principles (report, January 26); the Reverend Stephen Jones (letter, January 29) would prefer one on how to run them using Gospel principles. Should there not also be a course on how to run a business on Christian principles?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WELLS,  
Ribston House,  
Little Witley, Worcester WR6 6LS.

## Modern message

From Mr Hywel Lloyd

Sir, Here in downtown Sulgrave village, we have solved the problem of the automated BT answer service (letters, January 30; February 3).

I also found that the BT service could not recognise my spoken word "Yes". It usually said: "Sorry, I did not understand your answer."

However, guessing that it might be American software in use, I now respond with "Yeah". This works without fail every time.

Yours internationally,  
HYWEL LLOYD,  
Church Cottage, Sulgrave,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 2RP,  
February 3.

## Numeracy hour

From Mr J. A. Sargeant

Sir, Our local primary school has decided that the newly recommended "numeracy hour" (reports, January 22) is to be of 45 minutes. Has all hope now gone?

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. SARGEANT,  
75 Heathmount Drive,  
Crowthorne,  
Berkshire RG45 6HJ,  
jim.sargeant@currtel.co.uk,  
January 26.

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OBITUARIES

DR ROBERT MCINTYRE

Dr Robert McIntyre, the SNP's first MP and later the party's chairman and president, died on February 2 aged 84. He was born on December 15, 1913.



McIntyre addressing a joint SNP/Plaid Cymru conference, Caxton Hall, London, 1967

Although he secured a footnote in history as the Scottish National Party's first Member of Parliament, Robert McIntyre's major contribution was to shape it as a constitutionalist party. The policies developed under his leadership in the years after the war owed much to Scotland's Presbyterian tradition. They were democratic, monarchist and, in a curious forecast of Thatcherism, downgraded the role of central government, while rejecting the cultural nationalism that had infused the Scottish literary renaissance before the war. As a historian noted, McIntyre accepted everything except the modern bureaucratic state.

He also made a major contribution to his adopted burgh of Stirling, where he was Provost for eight years, playing a leading role in the campaign that led to the opening of Stirling University in 1967.

Robert Douglas McIntyre, a son of the Marzess, was born in Motherwell. After school at Hamilton Academy and Daniel Stewart's College, Edinburgh, he graduated in medicine and surgery in Edinburgh before taking a diploma in public health in Glasgow, working there for a time as a port medical officer. After the war he was a consultant chest physician for Stirling and Clackmannan from 1951 until his retirement in 1979.

His first prewar political connection, as a student at Edinburgh, was with Labour. But he became disillusioned by London-centred policy-making, and turned instead to the SNP, which had been formed in 1934.

In the years immediately before the war, the young party showed a fissile pattern

that was to be intermittently characteristic. Its tendency to split was not surprising because from the start it had been an uneasy blend. Within it were leftist and rightist factions, sometimes extreme. There were strands, too, of cultural or Anglophobic nationalism of the kind classically expressed by the lawyer Andrew Dewar Gibb and others who admired Mussolini and deeply resented Irish immigration into Scotland. Scots had made the empire, Gibb argued, but the empire had made England great.

Some elements thought that Scotland should not fight "England's war". The poet and classicist Douglas Young, coming from a socialist position remote from the quasi-fascism of Gibb, was imprisoned as a conscientious objector. Arthur Donaldson, later SNP chairman, marched the "streets carrying anti-war banners and spent some time in Barlinnie jail as a suspected German spy.

McIntyre became secretary

in 1940 and brought new efficiency to the party's affairs, clearing its debts. Its policy of exploiting the wartime electoral truce — and the unpopularity of the Government's industrial policy in Scotland — caused internal dissensions and external resentment. But it paid off when a series of by-elections culminated in a victory.

After Young, chairman in 1942, had almost taken Kirkcaldy Burghs in 1944, McIntyre won Motherwell in April the following year. Although he lost the seat only six weeks later in the Labour landslide in the July general election at the end of the war, it was an authentic milestone.

In the Commons there was a moment of comedy, which revealed the party's essentially law-abiding nature: McIntyre at first refused to accept the customary sponsorship of two MPs, on the grounds that it was a Westminster "club" tradition which had no constitutional legitimacy, but the next day did so rather meekly

"under protest" because there seemed no other means of his taking his seat — although *The Times* reported, in fact, that some MPs were willing to waive the rule.

After the war McIntyre found himself in control of the party's destiny. A founding father, John MacCormick, had left to join the Liberals and promote the Scottish Covenant; it attracted at least a million signatures but was quickly forgotten after its presentation to Downing Street in 1950. It was exactly the kind of gestural emotionalism which McIntyre despised.

Instead, as SNP chairman from 1948 to 1956, he pushed on with developing Poulisidist policies which, though worthy, were also rather dreary. He excluded those, like Douglas Young who held dual loyalty to the SNP and Labour, and his policies made little appeal to romantic nationalists. The literary firebrands like Hugh MacDiarmid he regarded as something of a nuisance, and the loss of interest was mutual.

Nor were relations cordial with the patriot Wendy Wood, who some in the party thought had informed on Arthur Donaldson.

During this period Winston Churchill and the Tories had flirted with Home Rule to embarrass the Atlee Government, since Labour's manifesto in 1945 had included a commitment to Home Rule; politically it was a fallow period for the SNP, with many splits. McIntyre once remarked, in a rueful paraphrase of the classic nationalist Declaration of Arbroath of 1320, that "so long as one hundred of us remain alive, we will form two groups".

By the time the discovery of North Sea oil, coinciding with the painful process of industrial reconstruction, revived the party's fortunes in the late 1960s, McIntyre was president of the SNP, serving from 1958 until 1980, when once more the party fell into schism after the failure of Labour's home rule legislation and the repeal of the Scotland Act 1978. Many thought that the SNP was being punished for having allowed Labour to "steal its clothes". With others, he resisted a republican and left-wing bid for dominance.

McIntyre had continued loyalty to most practical fulfilment in local politics. He was the first SNP member of Stirling council and the first SNP provost, serving from 1967 to 1975. He was given the freedom of Stirling; the university, where he was Chancellor's Assessor, 1978-88, gave him an honorary doctorate.

His legacy is a party largely unified under its leader Alex Salmond, which relies on advancing its aims through constitutional and democratic means. McIntyre became the party's first honorary president, a title conferred on him to mark the introduction of the Scotland Bill, which will lead to elections for a Scottish parliament in May next year. He is survived by his wife and son.

DAVID MORLEY

David Morley, racehorse trainer, died on January 5 aged 88 after a heart attack. He was born on September 17, 1909.



DAVID MORLEY trained Celeric to win last year's Gold Cup at Ascot for the incoming senior steward of the Jockey Club, his brother-in-law Christopher Spence. Celeric, the best horse he trained on the flat, also won the Jockey Club Cup in 1996, when he ended the monopoly enjoyed in that race by Further Flight, who had won the Cup for five seasons. Celeric also won the Yorkshire Cup five weeks before his Ascot success.

For all his considerable ability, Celeric needed a great deal of fitnessing. He had to be held up for as late a final dash as possible, time after time. Morley would impress on his jockeys that it was vital not to get to the front too soon. This inevitably led to agonising moments as the riders waited till the last seconds, and the process must have been even worse for Morley. Pat Eddery's riding of Celeric at Ascot was widely taken as exemplary.

Racing was very much in Morley's family, since his grandfather, Charles Gordon, was one of the first owners to have horses with (Sir) Jack Jarvis, but Morley's enthusiasm to make training horses his life was not very popular with his father.

Michael Frederick David Morley was educated at Eton and did two years' National Service in the Tenth Hussars in Germany — where he assisted Piers Bengough to train the regiment's horses. Morley then went through the motions of what his father called "getting a proper job", and had spells selling Horlicks, working in the City and for the estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley.

How hard he tried to make a success of such ventures is questionable. His Eton contemporary and former champion amateur rider Sir William Pigeon-Brown, introduced him to Frank Cundell, who ran a highly successful mixed yard at Aston Tirrold in Berkshire. In 1964, Morley became the trainer's assistant. After nine years he branched out on his own, converting a near derelict yard at Timworth in Suffolk, and

setting out to train a team of jumpers, many of them imported from France. His first winner came when High Havens, after whom he was named his yard at Newmarket, landed a three-mile chase at Market Rasen in September 1973.

High Havens was to prove a real stalwart for the yard, and his first win was soon followed by important victories for horses including Banlieu, who won the Brewers Hurdle at Doncaster in 1974. Havans and Valmony, who both showed top level form as juvenile hurdlers, and smart chasers including Tragus, who won the (Great) Yorkshire Chase and beat Night Nurse at Sandown.

Morley's progress up the training ranks, though, was not without its less happy moments, and he was shaken to the core in February 1977 when the Stewards of the Jockey Club fined him £1,500 and suspended three of his horses for the rest of that season after an inquiry. This swingeing penalty was imposed after Morley's head had, on the trainer's instructions, administered steroids to the three horses, in contravention of the rules.

The episode was merely a blip in the trainer's career, but he was becoming increasingly disillusioned by the high injury rate to jumpers, and his move to Newmarket in 1984 coincided with his decision to concentrate on flat racing. He had had some flat horses in the early part of his career, and won his first

race on the level when Punch Up was successful at Windsor in 1974. During the following season he gained his first Group win when Celebe, owned by the then Senior Steward Lord Fairhaven, won the Cumberland Lodge Stakes at Ascot.

Morley did progressively better at Newmarket, but even so there was a degree of surprise when, after his best flat season, with 30 winners, in 1988, it was announced that he would train for Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum the following year.

Sheik Hamdan, though, knew his man, and Morley rewarded his faith by winning two Middle Park Stakes, the 1990 Cork and Orrery at Royal Ascot with Araf, and other Group races with Falah and Purjoj. At the start of the 1997 season, 20 of the 45 horses in Morley's yard belonged to the owner from Dubai. But for all that success, Celeric's victory in the Gold Cup was the undoubted highlight of David Morley's training life. It was an immensely popular result, not only because it was an English success through and through and Celeric was a well-fancied contender, nor even because of Pat Eddery's sparkling riding: many of the cheers which greeted the returning heroes were aimed primarily at Celeric's trainer. David Morley is survived by his second wife, Melanie, whom he married in 1984, by their two daughters and a son, and by two sons from his first marriage.

KENNETH LOVELAND

Kenneth Loveland, newspaper editor and music critic, died on January 25 aged 82. He was born on October 12, 1915.



AS EDITOR of *Gwent's* evening paper, the *South Wales Argus* from 1951 to 1970, and, somewhat unusually, its music critic for most of that time, Kenneth Loveland was an influential figure in raising awareness of music in Wales at a period when little attention was being paid to it in the outside world. At the same time, through his advocacy in *The Times* over a number of years he helped the fledgling Welsh National Opera to attain its current international standing.

It was his proud boast that he had given the first commendatory notices to such singers as Sir Geraint Evans, Dame Margaret Price and Dame Gwyneth Jones. Un-

doubtedly his encouragement did much to bring them to the attention of others, and he followed them round the opera houses of Europe, making sure that the international performances of these distinguished Welsh artists received their due. Whether at home or abroad, in Cardiff or

in Salzburg, Loveland banged the drum enthusiastically for all things Welsh.

Yet Ken Loveland was but an honorary Welshman. He was born at Sheerness, Kent, and his early experiences of listening to music included broadcast concerts by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the years before the Second World War. His early concert-going was at the Queen's Hall in London. In those days he was as much at home at Lord's as in the concert hall, and played cricket while fielding in a catching position too close to the wicket. Even when he had become something of a grandee on the Welsh music scene, he continued to demonstrate a knowledgeable interest in the game, so following in a tradition of lovers of music and cricket in journalism which stretches back to Neville Cardus.

His early journalistic experience was with local papers in Kent and then, after war service in the Army, with a newspaper in Luton. But he went to Newport in 1949 as assistant editor of the *South Wales Argus*, and was appointed editor two years later. But, although he was to edit the *Argus* for almost twenty years, music was his first love, and he soon created a roving brief for himself as the paper's music critic, and as a freelance writer on music.

Having met and got to know Bill Mann, then chief music critic of *The Times*, he undertook to describe for the paper's readers what was happening on the Welsh music scene. This involved following not only the careers of an emerging generation of opera singers who were to become renowned, but the progress of the Welsh National Opera, which in those years transformed itself from being decidedly "regional" into an

international presence. He also supported the BBC Welsh Orchestra, charting its rise to its present position as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Along the way he became a doughty proselytiser for the Welsh composers Daniel Jones, William Mathias and Alun Hoddinon.

He was a frequent broadcaster on Welsh radio and television, and hosted a long-running programme on Irish television. He also contributed interviews and other music items to the BBC's *Kaleidoscope*. During his time as editor of the *South Wales Argus* he served terms as chairman of the National Council for the Training of Journalists and president of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors. After leaving the paper in 1970 he continued to pursue a freelance career as a music critic and travel writer, latterly struggling bravely against illness to get to the concert hall or opera house. Yet despite his transplanted to Wales, and his years of swanning around Europe rooting for Welsh music and performers, he unrepentantly retained his Home Counties drawl.

Kenneth Loveland was one of a generation of regional newspaper critics who were respected throughout the country and abroad. On his 80th birthday a concert in Swansea given by the London Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Sir Colin Davis was dedicated to him. In 1986 he was made an honorary Master of Music of the University of Wales. He continued to live in Cwmbran, at the heart of his beloved *Gwent*, with his wife, Anne, who survives him.

THE RIGHT REV LESLIE STRADLING

The Right Rev Leslie Stradling, former Bishop of Johannesburg, died on January 8 aged 89. He was born on February 11, 1908.

VERY few men can have reached the 80th anniversary of their consecration to the episcopate, but Leslie Stradling attained his 82nd. Throughout his life he combined a deep grace and spirituality with a dry humour and a sense of realism — qualities which were to be of great help to him in the politically challenging climate in which he later worked.

Leslie Edward Stradling, the son of a Baptist minister, was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, from where he won a scholarship to Queen's College, Oxford. He then trained for the priesthood at Weston House, Cambridge, before moving to South London as curate of St Paul's, Lorrimer Square. He became vicar of St Luke's, Camberwell, in 1938, and served the parish during the Blitz, before moving to St Anne's, Wandsworth, in 1943.

During the war Stradling — an outstanding exemplar of the High Church South London tradition — had been spotted as a priest who might play a seminal role in Africa, where great change was anticipated. In 1945 he was

invited to Lambeth and asked to become Bishop of Masasi in what was then Tanganyika by Geoffrey Fisher, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who still at that time retained the right to make such "colonial" appointments. With no family ties, Stradling readily accepted. He soon established himself as a pastoral bishop with rare gifts for teaching and writing.

Seven years later he became Bishop of South West Tanganyika, a newly formed diocese. The Government under Verwoerd saw the Anglican Church as a focus for subversion (hence the deportation of his predecessor), but Anglicans in the diocese themselves were divided, and it was left to Stradling to try to restore confidence and unity. Although strongly disapproving of apartheid, he chose not to be so forthright in denunciation of it as his predecessor.

As Bishop, he encouraged his flock to exercise whatever opposition was lawful and to wait for political change. This "moderate" policy was tested in 1971 when he had to deal with the arrest and trial of Gonville French-Beytagh, the Dean of Johannesburg. He was forced to balance his belief in the course of the law with the knowledge that the State was trying to undermine the Church. In face of criticism from various quarters, he stood by his own appointee against the apparatus of the State. Stradling retired as Bishop of Johannesburg in 1974 and settled in Cape Town. He was established as broadcaster and author, with several books to his name, including *A Bishop on Safari* (1960), *The Acts Through Modern Eyes* (1963) and *A Bishop at Prayer* (1977). He continued to write and was well known for his Lenten Bible studies. He did not marry.



PERSONAL COLUMN

MIDWEEK RENDEZVOUS

FLATSHARE

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

DELTA WORLDWIDE

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

AIRLINK

FLIGHTWISE

FLIGHT SEARCHERS

FARESAVERS

FLIGHTSEEKERS

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KARL POPPER CONFERENCE

SARGENT CANCER CARE FOR CHILDREN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

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SOFT LANDING ON MOON BY RUSSIA LUNA 9 SENDING SIGNALS AND PICTURES FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MOSCOW, Feb. 3

of the earth's satellite and closest neighbour in space. Measuring instruments on board the Luna 9 are expected to supply information on the composition of the moon's surface, its temperature and heat-conducting characteristics, and its strength for supporting objects of heavy weight, including eventually manned spacecraft. Soviet scientists also hoped to assemble information on the extent of meteorite bombardment of the moon and the frequency of moon tremors. Tass gave no information of how often communication contacts would be held or



NEWS

Blair sacks lottery regulator

The National Lottery regulator Peter Davis was dismissed last night on the orders of Tony Blair. He was forced to go to a marathon meeting with Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary. He had been summoned to explain how he intended to maintain public confidence in the lottery after a court verdict that Richard Branson had been offered a bribe by a former Camelot director to pull out of the race to run it.

20 die after jet cuts cable car wire

Twenty people fell 300ft to their deaths in the Dolomites when an American military aircraft sliced through the steel cable supporting a cable car carrying skiers. Witnesses said the Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler jet from the US base at Aviano 60 miles away, had been flying "very very low" and appeared to be trying to gain height when it hit the cable.

Jobless increase

Unemployment is set to soar by 500,000 to 1.9 million thanks to a new method of calculating the jobless. The Government said the previous system failed to give a true picture.

Couple stay together

An elderly couple have won a court battle to stay together after social workers in South Yorkshire wanted to put the husband in care, saying he suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

Jail unrest fear

Britain's overcrowded jails face the threat of disruption after the decision by the Government to uphold a ban on industrial action by 29,000 prison officers.

Short loses out

Clare Short is to lose her responsibility for Britain's 13 remaining colonies in a shake-up that will give them a separate department in the Foreign Office.

Race cheating denied

A leading racehorse trainer, her husband and a champion jockey began a High Court claim for damages after they were accused of cheating by The Sporting Life.

Falling suburbs

Schools in the "leafy suburbs" are letting down pupils despite general improvement elsewhere in England, the Chief Inspector of Schools said.

Bart's reprieved

Bart's won its battle against closure when the Government kept a pre-election pledge by Tony Blair to save the 300-year-old London hospital.

French fancies

A French magazine has responded to the Clinton sex scandal by examining French presidential adultery. It concludes that recent leaders have taken a liberal view of their marriage vows.

Lottery aide

Lord Moyihan has emerged as a key figure in GTEch's campaign to beat Richard Branson to the National Lottery contract. He is continuing to be paid £5,000 a month by GTEch.

Warm welcome

The arrival of the Prince of Wales in Sri Lanka ignited trouble within minutes - a 21-gun salute sparked a grass fire.

Meat message

Government advice that red meat causes cancer will be toned down when a long-awaited report from its top nutritional committee is published.

Journey into past

Bill Clinton's years at Oxford University left him with warm memories of late nights wrangling over the future of the world. Tony Blair's arrival in Washington today will be a throwback to those times.

Holiday couples live life at double

A couple who shared a table with two strangers in an Algerian holiday hotel were amazed to discover a series of coincidences between their lives. Albert and Betty Cheetham and Albert and Betty Rivers were married at the same time on the same day 55 years ago. The husbands had both worked in railway workshops and both wives in post offices.



Giuliano Grazioli, left, scorer for Stevenage in their FA Cup clash with Newcastle, sets off with goalkeeper Des Gallagher for today's replay

BUSINESS

Tax: The Inland Revenue could net £90 million in penalties from tax payers who missed Saturday's deadline for returning self-assessment forms.

SPORT

Football: Newcastle United are determined that Stevenage Borough's spell in the limelight will end with an emphatic home victory in the FA Cup replay at St James' Park tonight.

GLITTERING PRIZES

Forget the celebrities of the Booker and the Whitbread - tomorrow's British Book Awards ceremony will have soap stars, footballers and vulgar fun.

MATERNAL GIRL

Pushing 40 and revealing in motherhood, Madonna has reinvented herself as the hype around her latest record reaches fever pitch.

Argos: Great Universal Stores has launched a hostile £1.68 billion bid for Argos, the catalogue retailer.

Rugby union: Gary Armstrong replaces Rob Wainwright as the Scotland captain against Ireland in the opening match of the Five Nations Championship.

Ice cream: The Taiwanese director Ang Lee talks about his films past, including Sense and Sensibility, present, The Ice Storm, and future - a war movie.

Village voice: Tonight Maria Schneider brings her renowned big band from Greenwich Village to the Barbican; plus reviews of two jazz gigs in London.

Power: PacificCorp, the American utility made an agreed £4 billion bid for The Energy Group. Rival offers are expected to emerge shortly.

Cricket: Angus Fraser has been on the losing side in two Test matches in Trinidad, but the England bowler is confident of victory when the game gets under way in Port of Spain tomorrow.

New world: The young musicians of Miami's New World Symphony are bringing their idealism to the Barbican's Inventing America festival next week.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 13.8 to close at 5612.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 104.8 to 105.1 after a rise from \$1.6360 to \$1.6423 and from DM2.9803 to DM2.9872.

Golf: Lee Westwood is coping well with the pressure of being the finest English golfer to emerge since Nick Faldo.



Dr Robert McIntyre, SNP MP; David Morley, racehorse trainer; Kenneth Loveland, newspaper editor

Backtracking: In Sweden and Norway, you can ramble where you will - but not in Britain. A review of the arguments as the Government backtracks on its "right to roam" promise.

Millennium folly: Castles, mansions and follies... all can be rented for the celebration of the millennium.

Simon Jenkins

History loves a truly monumental irony. The privatisation train, invented by the Tories, has hit the buffers just when its fiercest foe, the Labour Party, had apparently climbed aboard.

Alan Coren

Atop a gumball filing cabinet, in a corner of my attic sweatshop, sits a fez. It has sat there for more than a decade now, ever since it was brought back by my daughter from a school trip to somewhere fezzey, Morocco I think.

Lawrence Freedman

The almost leisurely build-up to the next round of missile strikes and air raids against Iraq indicates a lack of doubt on the allied side that they can hit their targets without being seriously inconvenienced by Iraqi defences.

Dr Robert McIntyre, SNP MP; David Morley, racehorse trainer; Kenneth Loveland, newspaper editor

Concern over Iraq policy; witchcraft on trial; 'dreary' Delius and the railway vandals.

Tomorrow

IN THE TIMES

FILMS Geoff Brown weathers Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver in The Ice Storm

BOOKS Imogen Stubbs praises wanderlust; Roger Scruton on blind freedom

FORECAST

General: Much of England and Wales will be dry with sun, the best of it in the South East, but northern England and Northern Ireland will be mostly dull with light rain or drizzle. Northeastern England will have bright spells. Much of Scotland will be wet, outbreaks of rain will be heavy in the north, but the south will be more drizzly. Sleet or snow will fall over the hills and mountains. Southeast Scotland will have long dry spells and it will brighten a little. The Irish Republic will be mainly dry after patchy rain eases out. Tonight, much of southern England will be cold with fog patches, but it will be a little milder than recently. Northern areas will be cloudier and windy with rain in western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, min, wind, and other weather metrics for various UK locations.

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest: day temp: Perth 11.0. Lowest: lowest day temp: Perth 0.0. Highest: highest day temp: Perth 11.0.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper: made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the last half of 1997.

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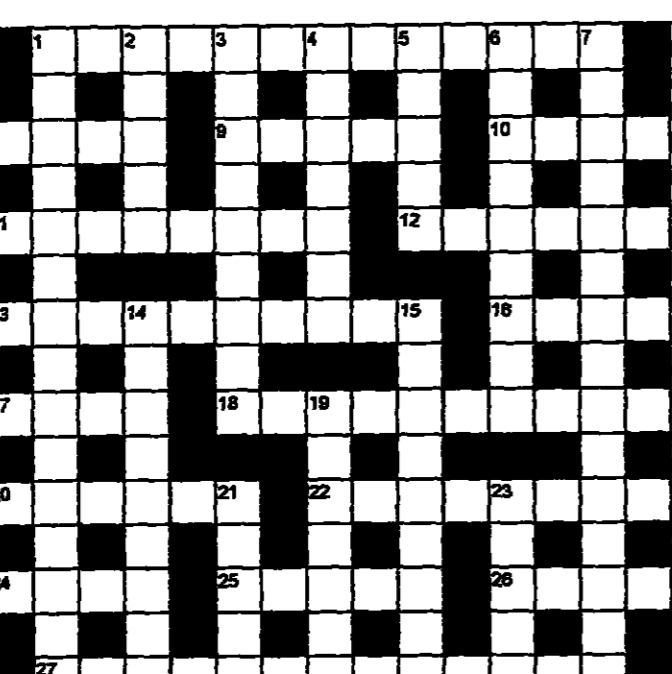
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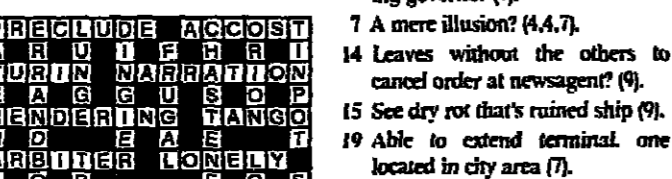
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,706



ACROSS

- 1 Took a trip in China, maybe, and was ruined (4,2,3,4).
8 Son with name for being "one of the boys" (4).
9 A film formerly was deemed suitable for one (5).
10 Arachnid in bed cover (4).
11 A march is organised for big appeal (5).
12 Like phoney grandma given flower before end of tale (6).
13 A loss of bodily fluid restricting person, one built like a sailor? (4,6).
16 Examine sort of shell (4).
17 Be taken in by commercial that's lying (4).
18 Most realms after revolution become disorderly states (10).
20 Scored very classical half-century to go on the attack (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,705



DOWN

- 1 Perform duty as cleric and celebrate new life (3,3,5,4).
2 Conan Doyle's hero finally changing sides in this country (5).
3 Change exercises with no one joining class (9).
4 Big wave has girl engulfed in flying mist (7).
5 Praise bringing old flame reverse of fortune (5).
6 Macedonian general not supporting governor (9).
7 A mere illusion? (4,4,7).
14 Leaves without the others to cancel order at newsagent? (9).
15 See dry rot that's ruined ship (9).
19 Air to extend terminal one located in city area (7).
21 Caterpillar, perhaps, found in particular valley (5).
23 Bike showed little sign of getting going (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44



Changes to chart below from noon: high A declines slightly in situ. Low G moves towards Iceland as it deepens. Low S swiftly transfers to the St Petersburg area as it fills.



Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and other weather metrics for various UK locations.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'INSIDE SECTION', '2 TODAY', 'FITSE 1', 'GUS', 'with £', 'Argos'.



# THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY

**BUSINESS**  
City shares the spoils from the mega-deals  
**PAGE 27**



**ARTS**  
Miami virtue: Ten years of the New World Symphony  
**PAGES 30-33**



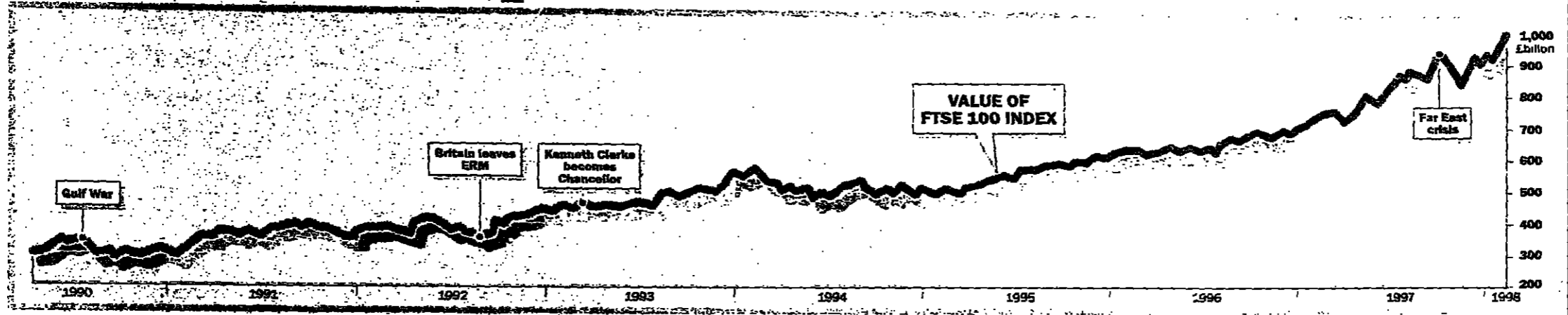
**SPORT**  
Scotland entrust Armstrong with leading revival  
**PAGES 38-44**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
**PAGES 42, 43**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1998

## FTSE 100 companies reach £1 trillion in value



BY MICHAEL CLARK AND GEORGE SIVELL

THE companies constituting the FTSE 100 index became valued at more than £1 trillion yesterday as the stock market's most watched index closed above 3,600 for the first time.

As the FTSE 100 passed 3,600, the market value of the 100 constituent stocks was exactly £1 trillion or £1,000 billion. The FTSE 100 closed at another all-time high, up

13.8 points on the day at 3,612.8. After seven consecutive days of gains, the FTSE 100 has risen 448.5 points, or 8.6 per cent.

The FT Actuaries all-share index, a measure of the entire value of quoted companies in Britain, crossed the £1 trillion mark in early 1997. The entire market is now worth almost £1.25 trillion.

At these levels, the FTSE 100 already matches some brokers' forecasts for the end of 1998. The average of market forecasts for the FTSE 100 on December 31, 1998, was

around 5,800. Market pundits have been confounded by the spate of mega-bids this year, notably SmithKline Beecham's now aborted bid for American Home Products and this week's plans to merge SmithKline Beecham with Glaxo Wellcome, creating the world's second-largest company and its largest drugs company.

This has helped to fuel the market's recent advance, as has an apparent easing of the financial crisis in the Far East.

The FTSE 100 was introduced in the early

1980s at the request of stockbrokers who wanted a more accurate barometer for the options market than the traditional FT-30 index. Its starting level was 1,000 and it fell to a low of 986.9 on 23 July 1984.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist for Charterhouse, the merchant bank, said: "It remains an accurate indicator of the stock market, but the market is weighted to so few sectors."

Drugs and banks, the two best-performing sectors during the past year, make up 28 per

cent of the constituent companies, while oil accounts for 7 per cent, insurance 6 per cent and telecoms 6 per cent. General industrial companies now account for only 10 per cent. However, brokers say that this reflects the British economy, which is now heavily weighted towards service industries.

"Banks and drug companies have been a safe haven for investors during the past 18 months and it will take a lot to shake people's confidence," Mr Jeffrey said. "That is where all the market liquidity is contained."

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	3612.8 (+13.8)
FTSE All share	2597.55 (+8.52)
Nikkei	17022.88 (+245.18)
New York	9086.11 (-21.67)*
Dow Jones	999.52 (-1.75)*
S&P Composite	

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	103.25% (103.25%)
Yield	5.86% (5.87%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7.75% (7.75%)
Life long	123.5 (123.4)
future (Mar)	

STERLING	
New York	1.6417* (1.6388)
London	
S	1.6425 (1.6394)
DM	2.3275 (2.3218)
FF	10.0150 (9.9921)
Sfr	2.4167 (2.4161)
Yen	207.20 (207.42)
S Index	100.0 (104.8)

DOLLAR	
London	1.6170* (1.6157)
DM	6.1108* (6.0952)
Sfr	1.4687* (1.4715)
Yen	128.95* (128.42)
S Index	100.0 (109.2)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$15.80 (\$15.85)

GOLD	
London close	\$297.15 (\$302.35)

## GUS surprises City with £1.68bn hostile Argos takeover bid

BY FRASER NELSON AND KATHY LAPARI

LORD Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman of Great Universal Stores, yesterday launched a hostile £1.68 billion takeover for Argos in an attempt to create a £4.2 billion catalogue empire.

The bid, which took the City by surprise, sent shares of Argos up 42 per cent after the struggling catalogue retailer immediately rejected the approach as "opportunistic".

It also said that Mike Smith, its chief executive, is stepping down after falling seriously ill. This leaves the company defended by Sir Richard Lloyd, its non-executive chairman, and Bob Stewart, finance director.

Argos shares jumped 188p to 630p — well clear of GUS's offer of 570p cash per share, as the City braced itself for a battle that could involve counter-bids from Kingfisher or other European retailers. GUS shares rose 29p to 762p.

Lord Wolfson, who took over as GUS executive chairman 18 months ago, said he decided to move when Argos accompanied disappointing Christmas trading figures with plans to set up a home shopping network. He said: "The whole point of this offer is that they have a catalogue, and we have a national delivery service. For us to carry another ten million deliveries would not be a major step."

Sir Richard said: "To describe this bid as opportunistic in view of all the circumstances would be an understatement. It fundamentally fails to recognise the unique nature and strengths of Argos's business." He added

that GUS's home shopping apparatus was not suitable for the company's own plans — which he defined as "off-store shopping". The two are different, he said, because Argos does not offer credit and has no plans to use agents.

He said: "We are in two very different things. Their business involves the use of local ladies to distribute catalogues, and ours does not. We are perfectly able to do all these things for ourselves, by ourselves."

Lord Wolfson praised the overall Argos strategy, but hinted that GUS would halt its plans to open 200 more stores over the next three years. He dismissed suggestions that GUS would shut down many of Argos's 400 shops and strip the business down to a stand-alone catalogue retailer.

The two companies have been in formal talks since last Wednesday. Sir Richard rejected Lord Wolfson's suggestion of a formal takeover on Friday, and was told on Sunday afternoon that GUS would make a hostile bid.

Analysts were taken aback by the bid. Most had expected Lord Wolfson to keep building GUS's information services division. Some said that merging Argos with GUS's mail order division, worth £2.5 billion, would help the enlarged group to generate £30 million additional profits.

To fund the deal GUS plans to exhaust its £500 million reserve and go into debt for the first time in 40 years for the remaining £1.2 billion.



Wolfson: "they have a catalogue, we have a delivery service"

## Revenue to gain £90m in penalties

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Inland Revenue could net £90 million in penalties from taxpayers who missed Saturday's deadline for returning self-assessment forms.

About 810,000 people, 70,000 partnerships and 20,000 trusts face a £100 penalty later this month and will be charged 9.5 per cent interest for every day they have outstanding payments, the Revenue confirmed. However, those still owing less than £100 in tax will not have to pay the penalty.

Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, welcomed the fact that more than 8 million taxpayers had met the deadline. She asked the Revenue to be flexible when dealing with people who had submitted incorrect returns. These may now be resubmitted by February 11 without penalty.

However, the Chartered Institute of Taxation accused the Revenue of abandoning a pledge to adopt a "light touch" to taxpayers who had returns up to 14 days late. Nigel Eastaway, chairman of the CIOT's technical committee, said: "They are being harsher than they indicated previously. To charge a £100 penalty for missing the deadline by a day or two seems unfair."

A spokesman for the Revenue denied it had ever offered to extend the deadline. "To do so would be unfair to the many people who met the deadline," he said.

Douglas Fairbairn, director of tax at Ernst & Young, the accountant, said self-assessment had failed the taxpayer: "Many taxpayers cannot cope with the staggering complexity of the tax system. The Chancellor must acknowledge that wholesale changes are necessary."

## Credit exposure to Indonesia rises to £1.8bn

BY CARL MORTISHED

THE Government's trade credit exposure to Indonesia rose to £1.8 billion last year thanks to a surge in sales of Airbus aircraft.

Indonesia is now the Export Credit Guarantee Department's largest exposure after China, and last year UK exporters to Indonesia topped the list of beneficiaries of ECGD credit insurance with £333 million of new business insured. The Asian financial whirlwind has prompted ECGD to reassess credit risk in the region, and in Indonesia in particular, where premiums have risen 10 per cent.

Garuda, the Indonesian airline, was recently forced to

## Asian cloud

The recovery in Asian markets stalled yesterday in spite of words of support from James Wolfensohn, who claimed that recent reforms should ensure that the region's economies were now shielded from further turmoil.

Page 24

## Urban

The prospect of a tax on greenfield developments has prompted Bryant, the housebuilder, to plan more projects in urban areas.

Page 25

## Tesco ends its 15-year connection with UBS

TESCO, the supermarket chain, has fired UBS as its stockbroker, severing a 15-year relationship (Fraser Nelson writes). The move follows UBS's merger with Swiss Bank Corporation, whose SBC Warburg Dillon Read subsidiary in London has strong links with J Sainsbury, Tesco's main rival.

Tesco said that although UBS and SBC may operate independently, it was considered inappropriate to retain a relationship with a company with the same parent as Sainsbury's adviser. A spokeswoman said: "We just didn't want to share an adviser with Sainsbury." NatWest Securities will succeed UBS.

Tesco said NatWest had been chosen to replace UBS because its strengths in European research may help Tesco's

## PacifiCorp launches new bid for Energy

PACIFICORP, the US utility, formally relaunched the takeover battle for The Energy Group yesterday with a £4 billion agreed bid. However, the City expects rival offers to emerge and Energy shares soared past PacifiCorp's cash offer of 765p, and closed at 775 1/2 p.

Texas Utilities said it was continuing talks with Energy while Nomura International could also remain in contact with the Anglo-American electricity and coal business, owner of the UK's Eastern Group. Texas is thought to have held talks with the electricity regulator's office.

PacifiCorp, which bid £3.6 billion for the company last year when the deal was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, renewed its bid after a "handshake" agreement with

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MSF may take legal action to halt merger

By Christine Buckley Industrial Correspondent

THE proposed merger of Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham faces the threat of a legal challenge by one of the main unions representing pharmaceutical workers. The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union claimed that both companies would contravene a European directive if they worked out plans for job cuts without involving the unions. However, Roger Lyons, MSF general secretary, conceded that a challenge would be time-consuming. It could also fail if redundancies are voluntary rather than enforced. The prospect of a legal battle was raised as the MSF, which represents 5,000 scientists and research staff in the two companies, warned that 10,000 jobs could be lost worldwide in the merger. Mr Lyons accused the companies of "medieval" behaviour following the merger announcement which came late on Friday night. He said that the staff had been "treated no better than feudal serfs" because they had been kept in the dark about the announcement. The MSF has called for full justification of the merger from the two companies. Mr Lyons said: "The case for the merger has not been proven." He claimed the UK's science base could suffer if research and development facilities were merged and said that competition between companies was more likely to deliver drug breakthroughs.

Asian market recovery stalls despite Wolfensohn's backing

By Alasdair Murray Economics Correspondent

THE recovery in Asian markets stalled yesterday in spite of words of support from James Wolfensohn, who claimed that recent reforms should ensure that the region's economies are now shielded from further turmoil. The President of the World Bank, who is on a tour of the region, said reform measures and International Monetary Fund support had "made it

less likely that you will have another significant downside break". However, Mr Wolfensohn added that markets still remained volatile and that "accidents could still occur in the financial sector". Only the Malaysian stock market made substantial gains, closing up 23 per cent in its first day of trading after a public holiday. The buying frenzy witnessed in the region's other markets on Monday quickly subsided with

most markets mired in thin trade. Hong Kong closed down 53.08 points at 10,525.51, while markets in Singapore, Jakarta and Manila were also modestly weaker. But the Thai and South Korean stock markets registered small gains. Asian currencies, however, fared better with the Thai baht rising 5 per cent to 48.20 against the dollar as traders sold dollars in response to the Government's decision to end the two-tier currency market.

The Malaysian ringgit also cleared the vital 4.00 hurdle to close at 3.97 to the dollar. However, nervousness over the political outlook in Indonesia - after new reports of rioting - prevented the rupiah from registering any gains. The Indonesian central bank was forced to intervene to protect the currency at about the 10,000 to the dollar level. Analysts said that Monday's surge had been led by fund managers desperate to profit from a sentiment-driven

swing and did not represent a return of confidence in the region. The rise in Malaysia, which was against the grain in the area, led to rumours of government support for the market. Analysts are concerned that, with little signs of concerted demand from overseas investors, sharp swings will continue on the region's stock markets because of the difficulty of establishing valuations and because of weak volume.

Smaller companies' reports criticised

THE poor standard of reports and accounts from smaller companies has been criticised at the Stock Exchange awards for best annual report and accounts. Richard Sykes QC, head of the judging panel, said it was "very disappointed with most of the entries". He said all the companies involved had sizeable public shareholdings and that the largest in the "smaller company" category was capitalised at more than £400 million. "It is time they made a much greater effort to communicate effectively with their shareholders," he said. Hodder Headline, the publisher, won the award for the second year running. The senior award was split between Land Securities, the property company, and SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals company now in merger talks with Glaxo Wellcome. The annual awards are sponsored by the Institutes of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, of Scotland and Ireland and the Stock Exchange.

Arjo Wiggins sales fall

ADVERSE exchange rates were blamed for a fall in fourth quarter sales at Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the papermaker, to £343.8 million from £374 million in the last three months of 1996. Expressed at constant exchange rates, the underlying turnover would have increased by £43.4 million on the corresponding period in 1996. For 1997, turnover was £3.27 billion, down from £3.57 billion in 1996. At constant 1997 exchange rates, this represented an increase of £78.7 million, the company said. Arjo shares fell 1p to 154p.

Approaches at Beales

SHARES in Beales Hunter rose 12p to 70½p, valuing the electrical company at £7.5 million after it had "received approaches from more than one party who have made proposals concerning offers for the outstanding shares of the company at prices significantly above the current market price," the group said. It added that "although the board is no longer pursuing discussions on such proposals, shareholders should be aware that these approaches have been made". Shareholders will be kept informed of any further developments.

Waddington pays \$33m

WADDINGTON, the paper and packaging group, has bought Trans Container Corp for \$33 million (£20 million), plus associated costs. Trans Container's results for the year to December 31 showed operating profits of \$4.5 million. Shareholders' funds acquired at completion amounted to \$3.5 million. Waddington said the acquisition would enhance its earnings in 1998-99. The company anticipates that gearing, after writing off goodwill on acquisition, will be about 80 per cent at March 31. The shares rose 2p to 253½p.

Fitness First placing

FITNESS FIRST, the operator of health and fitness clubs, is raising £10.1 million by way of a placing and open offer to fund its opening programme beyond 1999. The company expects to open 12 new clubs this year and is "actively progressing a portfolio of 15 additional sites," said Michael Balfour, managing director. The company is offering one new share for every 12 held at 217p each. Existing shares rose 16p to a new high of 244½p yesterday. The company also reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.3 million from £700,000 in the year to October 31.

TI to buy Safematic

TI GROUP, the UK engineering company, is acquiring Finland's Safematic, a supplier of sealing and lubrication systems to the global pulp and paper industry, for an initial £17 million. Safematic, with sales offices in North America, Latin America and the Asia Pacific region, earned pre-tax profits of 15.9 million markka (£1.8 million) on sales of 137 million markka in 1996. Net assets were 29.5 million markka at the last year-end. Safematic will form part of TI's John Crane subsidiary.

Kate Moore

IN Business Roundup (January 9) we reported the resignation of Kate Moore, the chief solicitor to the Investors' Compensation Scheme. The article might have been taken to suggest that she had resigned as a result of "constant criticism" from the Knight-Williams investors action group and that she had been an obstacle to the settlement of that group's claims. This would have been wrong. Ms Moore left the ICS, as our report made clear, to further her career and she had the full confidence of the ICS board. We regret any misunderstanding or embarrassment caused.

Tate & Lyle hit by profit warning

By Carl Mortished

A PROFIT warning from Tate & Lyle, the agribusiness group, sent its shares plunging 5 per cent yesterday. The sugar and starch manufacturer revealed at its annual meeting that profits were down in its North American and European sweetener and starch operations. In addition, disease in the Nebraska sugar beet crop would cut production and reduce profits by \$20 million. Tate & Lyle said that profits for the full year to September would remain about the same level as last year's £241 million. News of the downturn coincided with the announcement of the retirement of Sir Neil Shaw, Tate & Lyle's chairman. Sir Neil, 68, had relinquished the chief executive's position two years ago and his retirement was expected. City analysts had been forecasting that Tate & Lyle would make £265 million in the current year and the profits warning is likely to increase anxiety about its markets. David Lang, of Henderson Crosthwaite, said: "A lot is going to hang on recovery in fructose."

Staley, Tate & Lyle's US subsidiary, has been hit by a price collapse in fructose corn syrup, sold to soft drink bottlers. Meanwhile, the group is suffering higher commissioning costs on a wheat starch plant in Northern France where analysts fear a new price war may be brewing. On the sugar side, the company said it expected lower profits from the US because of reduced margins but the European sugar business performed well after the closure of a plant in Scotland in August.

Tempus, page 26



Sir Neil Shaw, who announced his retirement as chairman yesterday. He stepped down as chief executive two years ago

United extends bid date for regionals

By Jason Nisse

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA has extended the deadline for final bids for its regional newspaper operations as intense competition has pushed the likely price tag towards £450 million. Three venture capital groups - Advent International, Candover and CVC - are understood to be vying for the business with Trinity International, the only serious trade buyer to have put in an offer. However, Trinity is unlikely to match the price offered by the financial buyers. United offered United Provincial Newspapers, which

has operations in Yorkshire, South London and Spain, for sale before Christmas. The deadline for offers was last Thursday and bidders were expected to be told yesterday that one group had an exclusive bidding agreement. However, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank running the auction, has asked for further offers because of the intense competition. Venture capitalists are keen to purchase regional papers because they see them as a strong source of cash flow to pay off any debt financing needed for the deal.

Airbus wins \$2.5bn airline agreement

By Adam Jones

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European aircraft maker, has secured its largest ever European deal with a \$2.5 billion agreement to supply Iberia, the Spanish state airline, with at least 50 new planes. Iberia is buying from the A320 family of single-aisle planes to replace ageing McDonnell Douglas aircraft, Boeing 727s and old Airbus A30Ds. The order will see 31 A320s and 19 A321s delivered from 1999. Iberia has an option to buy a further 26 aircraft, increasing the total value of the order

by another \$1.3 billion. Xavier de Irala, the airline's president, said the standardisation across the A320 family is an advantage in building a flexible, short-to-medium range fleet. An industry source said Iberia has ordered planes from ten broad a range of manufacturers in the past, keeping servicing and training costs high. Iberia has been attacked by rival airlines in the past for getting bailed out of financial difficulties by the Spanish Government, which has plans to privatise the airline.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, Sell and various international rates for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, S Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Advertisement for 'THE TIMES 1000' book and CD-ROM. Includes text: 'GET THE FACTS and THE FIGURES The Times 1000 1998 Published every year since 1967'. Features a 'SPECIAL OFFER' and contact information for HarperCollins Publishers.

Prestbury completes £21m deal

NICK LESLAU, the property developer who built up Burford, yesterday completed the second deal for Prestbury Group, his new corporate venture. (Jason Nisse writes). The group is purchasing New Garden House in Central London from Johnson Matthey, the metals group, for £21 million. The building is largely occupied by Pannell Kerr Foster (PKF), the accountants, which has five and a half years to run on its lease. Mr Leslau says there is potential to redevelop the site, which is close to Holborn, where rental levels are more than twice the amount PKF is paying. The deal follows Prestbury's purchase of 250,000 sq ft of office space in Basingstoke, Hampshire.

City Diary, page 27

Henderson staff share £9m in AMP takeover

By Richard Miles

STAFF and management of Henderson, the fund manager, are to share £9 million in options after the company's acquisition by AMP, the Australian insurer. Their share options will crystallise when AMP's widely trailed £82 million agreed offer for Henderson, full details of which were disclosed yesterday, becomes unconditional. AMP is paying a price equivalent to 24 times Henderson's earnings per share in 1997, representing a considerable premium to book value and not far short of the premium paid by Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, for Mercury Asset Management. George Trumbull, AMP's chief executive officer, said Henderson would be merged with the insurer's UK asset manage-



Trumbull: merger details

ment business to form a company controlling £40 billion. This includes the £17 billion life fund of AMP's Pearl Assurance subsidiary. The merged business using the Henderson brand name will have a combined work-

force of 900, although job losses are expected to reduce this number by 10 per cent. Dugald Eastle will remain managing director, and Ben Wrey will stay as chairman. The deal gives Henderson access to Richard Branson's Virgin Direct brand. AMP owns 50 per cent of Virgin Direct, which has attracted more than £1 billion from savers. City analysts said Henderson had secured a good deal in the light of difficulties with its pensions management arm several years ago. It is likely that the group will now try to rebuild its institutional business. Apart from investment trusts managed by Henderson, the biggest single shareholder in the group is Legal & General, the insurer, with 11 per cent.

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Defence handed list of victims and witnesses

Inquiry into Mafia links at risk

US PROSECUTORS investigating Wall Street's alleged links with the Mafia have suffered a big setback. A document outlining the prosecution strategy and a list of victims and potential witnesses was handed over to the defendants' lawyers by mistake. The blunder could lead to the collapse of the most high-profile criminal investigation on Wall Street in recent years, according to the prosecutors who are examining the role of the Bonanno and Genovese families in a share-ramping scandal. The 97-page memo includes an assess-

ment of an attempt by organised crime to infiltrate a number of securities houses and is said to threaten the safety of witnesses. The memo fell into the hands of the defence when a prosecutor filed an indictment in a Phoenix, Arizona, court. Unbeknown to the prosecutor, the memo was stapled to the back of the indictment. Prosecutors later realised their mistake and raced back to the court, only to find that the defence had already taken possession of the document. A federal judge in New York ruled that the memo had to be handed over to him to review its significance. Judge Deputy Chin said: "In a case involving allegations of organised crime and threats of violence,

innocent victims and witnesses should not be exposed to any further risk." He ruled that the memo would be kept secret, even though defence lawyers had had a chance to study it. The investigation is a joint operation of the SEC, FBI, the New York police and the US Attorney's office, who made the case public with great fanfare last November. David Kelley, chief of the organised crime and terrorism unit in the US Attorney's office, said: "The document sets forth all of our prosecution theories, legal theories and factual scenarios." He said the disclosure "presents a danger to some of the victims in the case who are identified further to advance than they ordinarily would be."

Advertisement for Thyssen Aktiengesellschaft. Includes text: 'Invitation to the Annual General Meeting Thyssen Aktiengesellschaft, Duisburg, invites shareholders to the 44th Annual General Meeting on Friday, 20th March 1998, at 10.00 am, in the Mercator-Halle, König-Heinrich-Platz, Duisburg, Germany'. Lists agenda items and contact information.



# Wolfson at the door of Argos

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

The maxim that you do not kick a man when he is down finds little sympathy with most politicians. "When else would you kick him?" one once remarked.

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale experienced politics at its sharpest as chief of staff to Baroness Thatcher during her heyday. He emerged with a reputation for a frighteningly analytical mind but one that had no need of underhand tactics to achieve success. Only now that he is driving hard in the commercial world does he find himself the victim of whispers that he is not playing fair.

On the day that he has announced an £1.6 billion bid for Argos, the company has revealed the sad fact that its chief executive, Mike Smith, is so ill that he cannot continue. The implication is that it is bad form for GUS to be behaving aggressively in such circumstances. But while everyone will feel sympathy for Smith, who would undoubtedly, had he been able to, have wanted to stage a spirited defence of the business he nurtured, Wolfson should not be blamed for the timing of his attack on Argos.

A year ago he had approached Smith to explain why he thought GUS and Argos had much to offer each other. He met with an immediate rebuff. Still relatively recently installed in the chair of the family firm and having already splashed out more than £1 billion on buying a United

States credit rating business, he was content to wait a little while and reassure himself of the logic of his proposition.

Reassurance came resoundingly with last month's trading statement from Argos. The gloomy figures were accompanied with news that Argos was planning to invest in setting up a home shopping operation. It was the "out" Wolfson needed to pounce. He set the advisers to work on the deal. An initial meeting last Wednesday was followed by summoning the Argos team to a Sunday afternoon session. When City types gather on the Sabbath, it is a sure indication of serious intentions and big fees at stake.

Only after GUS had named its price, with the aim of winning an agreed deal, did Argos announce the plight of Mike Smith and the fact that the company was seeking a new chief executive.

Whatever finer feelings might have affected the GUS directors, it was too late for them to go back, and neither should they have done. The industrial logic of the deal is inescapable. It will save Argos the huge expense of preparing the infrastructure for a home shopping business and it will also prevent the company

splashing out on a couple of hundred "call and collect" shops. Argos has a sound basic business, but its record of innovation might make shareholders grateful to be spared another experiment.

The GUS bid may attract others: Argos is hoping that the defence team which upped the price of Allied Colloids from a first bid of 155p to 205p might work the same trick for them. The issue is price, not principle.

Camelot must cut ties with G-Tech

Richard Branson's courtroom victory over the perspiring Guy Snowden has occasioned a furor over the future of the optimistically named Camelot, and raises some tricky questions for the shareholders in that company. Whatever Camelot is now saying publicly, do Cadbury Schwep-

tes, de la Rue, Racal and ICL wish to continue an association with an individual now branded guilty of an attempt to corrupt the incorruptible?

Companies will be judged by the company they keep. While there were few in the City who believed that G-Tech's mission statement majored on integrity, this week's legal condemnation does raise again an issue which the British shareholding companies had hoped would vanish with the unquestionable success of the lottery.

They believed they needed G-Tech's expertise to accomplish the formidable task of covering the country with terminals that would be ready to deliver winners on the tight schedule the Government had ordained. On the technical front, their confidence in G-Tech has proved well-founded. The National Lottery has done what was required, raising huge sums for charity

and even providing some rather useful extra funds for the Government to dive into, as it has gradually eased the boundaries of how the money can be spent.

But the other question marks over the company are now so large that Camelot must find a way of severing its connections with G-Tech. Snowden has resigned his directorship but that will not be enough to satisfy the critics, who now have more ammunition for their belief that Camelot did not win the contract fairly in the first place. The other shareholders will have to find a formula for buying out G-Tech's 22.5 per cent holding.

Even then, there will be strong opposition to the company being awarded a second contract to operate the National Lottery.

But Camelot does have something of an advantage. In that it owns the equipment to operate it. It seems that there is nothing in the contract to insist that, were the contract to be awarded

elsewhere, the incumbents would have to hand over the machines, at a price determined by a formula. Which could put Camelot in a powerful negotiating position were they to lose the contract. If, that is, they could think of something else that they might do with all those terminals were an acceptable price not on offer.

### Keep advisers in their place

Customers are the last people on advisers' minds when they decide to merge, for all the usual talk of better service. For a sensitive client, it is just too vexing. Harassed House of Fraser was one of several to desert the corporate brokerage service of SBC Warburg in favour of UBS, or vice versa, only to find itself back where it started. Mirror Group took on UBS just before the merger of UBS and SBC was announced.

On the day that UBS shareholders agreed the merger, Tesco has now jumped ship from the combined group, because it will also be brokered to Safeway. The former Argyl group is likely

to be on the opposite side of bids and deals in the sector. Tesco decided to strip conflicts of interest in the bid.

At least there are still many corporate stockbrokers to choose from. After the disappearance of BZW and others, investment bankers of any size and standing may become thin on the ground, leaving scant choice where independent advisers are needed.

Worse conflicts will arise if, through some all too likely outbreak of regulatory lunacy, big six accountancy mergers between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand and between Ernst & Young and KMPG are allowed to go ahead. Tesco, currently with PW, might not wish to share a key adviser with Sainsbury (C&L). Asda would share with Kwik-Save. The likes of Tesco should advise their advisers to desist or try to stop these mergers before they happen.

### Golden bug

ONE lot of advisers guaranteed to hit the jackpot is that ragbag of experts needed to sort out the millennium computer bug. Up-ping the stakes, Unilever's man-on-the-job now reckons it will cost the multinational £250 million overall to complete a programme that will take 1,000 man-years to fix 100,000 pcs. Costs may well be higher for those who have taken a suspiciously optimistic line so far, most notably our own central government.

## Urban strategy for Bryant over greenfield fear

THE prospect of a tax on greenfield developments has already prompted Bryant Group, one of the leading UK housebuilders, to plan more projects in urban areas.

Bryant, which yesterday surprised the market with a surge in pre-tax profits, said that 30 per cent of all its building activities would take place in urban areas in the next financial year, compared with only 25 per cent this year.

Andrew MacKenzie, the chief executive, said: "The industry has accepted that there has to be an increase in use of urban land."

He welcomed the Government's proposed shake-up of the planning system, and called for a clear strategy for housebuilding and a more effective system for appealing against planning decisions.

Pre-tax profits for the six months ended November 30 increased 38 per cent, from £15.4 million to £21.3 million - well above analysts' forecasts of £19.5 million.

Turnover rose slightly from £257 million to £260 million, while earnings per share rose 40 per cent, from 3.7p to 5.2p.

Shares in the company rose 9p to 122p, after a recent low of 106p. An unchanged interim dividend of 1.45p will be paid on April 16.

Bryant said that house prices were expected to rise by 5 to 6 per cent this year, having risen 7 per cent in 1997.

Mr MacKenzie added: "The market is showing a sensible and sustained recovery, which started in the South and is migrating outwards."

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday threw out a proposal by Berkeley Group to build a £170 million cinema, flats and hotel development at Vauxhall, South London. Berkeley said that it would revise its proposal.

## Microsoft faces fresh Windows inquiry

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE US antitrust case against Microsoft has been broadened by attorney-generals from 11 states, with the announcement of a separate investigation into the marketing of Windows 95, the Microsoft product that is to be launched this spring.

The Justice Department is currently investigating the marketing of Windows 95, in an effort to prevent Microsoft from dominating the Internet software market. Windows 95 and the soon-to-be-launched Windows 98, it is claimed, illegally combine Internet software and computer operating systems.

The new investigation of Windows 95 presents a serious setback to Microsoft's hopes of restricting its legal problems to Windows 95, which will be replaced in shops by Windows 98.

A threat to the Windows 98 launch in April or May could undermine Microsoft's explosive earnings growth analysts have cautioned. Bill Gates, Microsoft's founder, this week sought to reassure investors, in an open letter, that the threat was minimal.

The investigation of Windows 98 signals a widening of the whole case against the software house. The Windows 95 investigation focuses on a practice called "bundling" in which the company ties two products together to force retailers to sell both.

While Windows 95 bundles Internet software and its operating system, Windows 98 fully integrates the two products. A court order obtained by the Justice Department forcing Microsoft to unbundle the products could not be applied to Windows 98, raising the threat of an aborted launch.

Microsoft said it will comply with subpoenas issued this week.



Nick Carrington, finance director of BSkyB, left, and Mark Booth are relying on digital to be a stimulus to growth and profitability

## BSkyB says launch of digital satellite will be modest affair

BY RAYMOND SNODDY MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television company, admitted yesterday that its planned digital satellite launch scheduled for June would be a "modest" affair.

The satellite broadcaster said that only "initial quantities" of the decoders needed to receive the digital channels would be available in June, but declined to say what the number would be. "The meaningful launch will be in the fourth quarter [of this year]. We will be rather quiet about digital until that time," Mark Booth, chief executive of BSkyB, said as the company unveiled a small decline in profit, caused partly by investments in the digital project that already top £100 million.

In the six months to December 31, BSkyB's turnover rose 20 per cent to £691.8 million, but pre-tax profits fell by £5.1 million to £128.6 million.

The financial row between BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, and British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the planned digital terrestrial service, intensified yesterday.

Mr Booth said that BSkyB would be serving a writ on Carlton Communications, a 50 per cent owner of BDB, seeking £30 million. The money is Carlton's share of compensation after BSkyB was required by the Independent Television Commission to leave the BDB partnership. The other remaining BDB partner, Granada, has paid up its share.

"We cannot have a company that doesn't honour their obligations to us," said Mr Booth, who added that Carlton's actions did not seem to be "the best way to establish a great relationship". Carlton said it had not paid the amount owed because BSkyB "has made

## Gibbs Mew falls to Enterprise

BY DOMINIC WALSH

GIBBS MEW, the pub operator that said on Monday it was in takeover talks, accepted a £48 million bid yesterday from Enterprise Inns, its acquisitive rival.

Directors of Gibbs Mew, who owned almost a third of the company, agreed to sell their shares, and Enterprise snapped up a further 26 per cent in the market through Deutsche Bank.

The 345p-a-share offer sent Gibbs shares 30p higher to 339p, adding to Monday's 52p gain. Enterprise rose 12 1/2 p to 305p.

The offer, including the 4p dividend due on April 6, is a 36 per cent premium over last Friday's close. Gibbs Mew shareholders can elect to take part of the consideration in Enterprise shares.

The deal will give Enterprise another 310 pubs taking its total outlets past 1,500. It has sold Gibbs Mew's drinks wholesaling business for more than £8.5 million.

The deal will take Enterprise's gearing to 133 per cent, but, Ted Tuppen, chief executive, said the enlarged group would have sound interest cover and substantial asset backing, and would enjoy considerable economies of scale.



Tempus, page 26 Tuppen: substantial backing

## Turmoil in Far East mauls Puma

PUMA, the German sports-wear company, has given warning that its profits may fall 50 per cent this year because of the financial crisis in Asia coupled with increased investment in its brands.

Puma shares fell by more than 8 per cent, to DM37.5 (£12.60) in response.

The company, which made profits of DM73 million (£24.4 million) in 1997, said that Asia normally accounted for up to DM100 million of total sales of DM700 million achieved by independent companies using the Puma name under licence.

Nearly all sales in Japan and South-East Asia were achieved through franchisees. Dieter Bock, Puma finance director, said: "Our main partner has been hard hit."

Consolidated group sales, excluding sales by franchisees, rose nearly 12 per cent last year to DM547 million.

## Ladbroke to sell more sites to Tote

LADBROKE, which is still awaiting regulatory clearance for its £376 million acquisition of Bass's Coral bookmakers, is to increase the number of betting shops it is selling to the Tote (Dominic Walsh writes).

Originally it agreed to sell 128 shops to the Tote for £41 million in the hope of avoiding referral to the Monopolies Commission. But yesterday a spokesman for Ladbroke said: "Having reassessed the location of shops following the purchase of Coral, we discovered an additional six shops which would require disposal under the existing MAC guidelines."

The so-called quarter-mile rule, established when Mecca merged with William Hill in 1989, is designed to maintain effective competition in local markets. The spokesman said the additional consideration it would receive for the shops was "not material".

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Merger mania helps shares advance again

MERGER mania continued to grip the City with another clutch of takeover deals keeping traders on the hop. Even so, the combined value of the bids announced yesterday paled into insignificance when compared with the £117 billion merger announced on Monday between SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome.



Frederick Buckman, of PacifiCorp, left, and Derek Bonham, chairman of Energy Group, up 21p at 775 1/2p

But they still managed to generate plenty of interest, fuelling speculation that further deals may be in the pipeline. They also enabled the FTSE 100 index to recoup a 25-point fall to close at the best of the day with a rise of 13.8 points to 5,612.8. The index has now risen seven straight days by 1.9p, stretching its lead by 48.4 points, or 8.6 per cent.

street breathed fresh life into the retail sector. Dixons moved ahead 20 1/2p to 512 1/2p, while there were also gains for Next, 16 1/2p to 733 1/2p, Arcadia, 14 1/2p to 452 1/2p, H&M, 10 1/2p to 245 1/2p, DFS Furniture, 14p to 131 1/2p, WH Smith, 10p to 45 1/2p, and Thorn, 12p to 158p. The agreed bid of £16.45 a share from the Australian group AMP left Henderson 42 1/2p lower at £16.22 1/2. Confirmation of the bid also directed speculative support to Schroders, up 7 1/2p to £19.39.

Energy Group responded to the revised terms from PacifiCorp with a jump of 21p at 775 1/2p, as 6.84 million shares changed hands. PacifiCorp, whose president and chief executive is Frederick Buckman, has raised its offer from 690p to 765p, valuing Energy Group at £4 billion. But Energy is continuing to talk to Texas Utilities, one of the other suitors. Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, was also known to have expressed an interest.

One of the best performances among the top 100 was seen in BSKyB, up 19p to 36p, after interim results and confirmation that plans for a modest launch of its digital service would take place in June. Amstrad, up 3 1/2p to 32 1/2p, has been awarded one of the contracts to supply the digital set top decoders along with Pace Microtechnology, 10p better at 40p.

The proceeds from the bid will now come flooding back into the other utilities. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, says this will provide a boost to the likes of the water companies. Top of its buy list are United Utilities, up 7 1/2p to 81 1/2p, South West Water, down 1 1/2p to 93p, Hyder, 1p higher at 98p, and Thames Water, 2p easier at 87 1/2p.

Granada fell 2 1/2p to 30p before today's annual meeting. The board is expected to be criticised for changes to executive remuneration. The future over the National Lottery after Richard Branson's libel victory in the High Court has cast a shadow over the operator Camelot. Shareholders in Camelot include Rascal Electronic, down 5p to 260p, De La Rue, down 5p to 361 1/2p, and Cadbury Schweppes, which touched 72p up on the day at 75p.

Argos stormed ahead with a leap of 18p, or 43 per cent, at 63p, exceeding the terms of a 570p-a-share offer from Great Universal Stores, 29p dearer at 76 1/2p. Argos rejected the terms which give it a price tag of £1.6 billion.

Granada fell 2 1/2p to 30p before today's annual meeting. The board is expected to be criticised for changes to executive remuneration. The future over the National Lottery after Richard Branson's libel victory in the High Court has cast a shadow over the operator Camelot. Shareholders in Camelot include Rascal Electronic, down 5p to 260p, De La Rue, down 5p to 361 1/2p, and Cadbury Schweppes, which touched 72p up on the day at 75p.

Judging by the reaction of the Argos share price, City speculators are not ruling out the possibility of a counterbid or higher offer. They say Kingfisher, the Woolworth, Comet and B&Q stores group, might take a look at the catalogue retailer. Kingfisher firmed 2 1/2p to 96 1/2p.

He said T Group, up 25p at 46 1/2p, had been oversold, while Paul Compton, at rival Merrill Lynch, was urging clients to accumulate late Siehe, up 6 1/2p at £11.47. BBA, up 5p to 36 1/2p, is seen as the pick among second liners.

The possibility of further consolidation on the high

street breathed fresh life into the retail sector. Dixons moved ahead 20 1/2p to 512 1/2p, while there were also gains for Next, 16 1/2p to 733 1/2p, Arcadia, 14 1/2p to 452 1/2p, H&M, 10 1/2p to 245 1/2p, DFS Furniture, 14p to 131 1/2p, WH Smith, 10p to 45 1/2p, and Thorn, 12p to 158p. The agreed bid of £16.45 a share from the Australian group AMP left Henderson 42 1/2p lower at £16.22 1/2. Confirmation of the bid also directed speculative support to Schroders, up 7 1/2p to £19.39.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major stock indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including Abbey Nat Dbln II, Diageo B, General Inds, Longmead (18), Marchpole, Razorback Vehicles, Richards Group, Spangley Warrens, Second Scot 2r Dv, and Second Scot 110.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including Derwent Vly n/p (520) 41 1/2.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in share prices, including RISES and FALLS for various companies like Anglo, Pasa Micro, Interec Gp, Inchcape, MFI, Thom, Premier Farnell, BSA, TI, Belfry, DCC, BOC, Enbridge Intns, Real Time, Enbridge, Role & Nolan, GRE, AB Food, COLT Telecom, and Courtauld.

TEMPUS

Tate & Lyle's tender spot

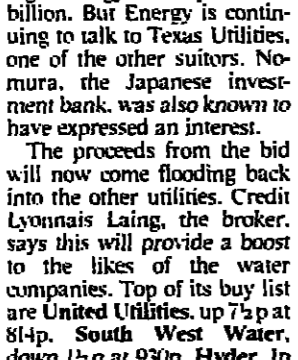
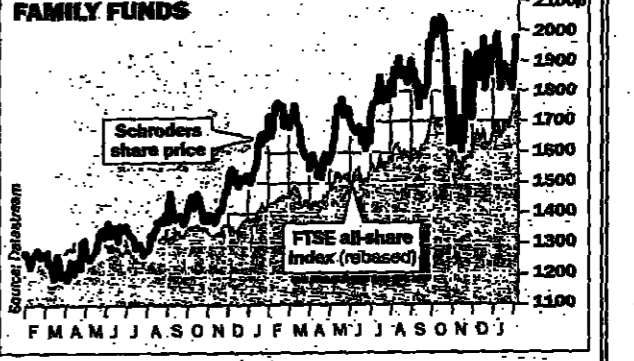
THE mystery surrounding Tate & Lyle is not why it disappoints so often but why the market chased the shares up 40 per cent over the past six months. Part of the explanation lies with a defensive move by some fund managers. Shares in leading food producers were rising for most of the latter half of last year, as some funds took a view that the FTSE growth stocks were coming off the boil.

enormous buying power and have been working to improve the relatively weak margins in their industry. To make matters worse, farmer co-ops built up milling capacity to take some margin from the agribusiness giants and the product price fell by a third. Things are looking up for Tate & Lyle in America, but very slowly, as giants such as Cargill are buying up co-operative mills. In Europe there is the possible threat of another price war in wheat starch as both Tate & Lyle and a rival are building new plants. Like the paper industry, milling has an investment cycle with new capacity tending to come on stream in lumps. With the price of agricultural produce likely to decline, pressure on processors will increase, an invitation to more consolidation. Tate & Lyle's troubles are not over but it is also looking a bit vulnerable.

Schroders

INVESTORS would have been better off buying shares in Schroders than in the fund management arm's unit trusts. Swept along by the herd, and a bid for rival Mercury Asset Management, Schroders cannot complain about its rating - although a few retail clients might sniff. Some short-term shareholders in the unit trusts on MAM and recently, Henderson, would love to sell the business. With family interests at 48 per cent, that prospect is dim. Far better to value Schroders as a going concern. On a bid footing the group is vastly underpriced. Assuming, Schroders Investment Management (SIM) is valued similarly to MAM, it is worth some £3.7 billion, more or less the market value of Schroders as a

whole. If SIM's managers missed out on the FTSE's raging bull, the bank's corporate financiers did better, which raises the question of how a small investment bank should be rated. Assuming a more conservative 2 per cent of funds for SIM, the bank is probably worth just over £1 billion, or 12 times earnings. That looks high for a cyclical business that is showing signs of hubris, running up costs and expanding into share trading. The unfortunate truth is that no one expects fund managers to get it right more than half the time, while merchant bankers have to prove themselves every year but never do.



HOPES of a rally brought some much-needed relief to Britain's engineering companies. The sector has borne the brunt of problems caused by sterling's strength and the fall-out from the Asian crisis. Both have combined to drive the sector to a five-year low relative to the market. But brokers reckon it now looks as if the sector has been oversold. Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said: "Figures due out in March should quantify the true extent of the Asian exposure to these companies. But it looks as if the falls have been overdone." He reckoned that the better quality stocks would rally first, with the cyclical companies dependent on the outlook for interest rates. "But this could be the year when the second liners start to get some support, at last," he added.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, and various oil and metal prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Eurozone, Three Mth Eurodollar, Three Mth Euroswap, Three Mth ECU, and FTSE 100.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Cyprus, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and USA.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of money rates for various currencies including Base Rate, Discount Rate, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, Sterling Money Rates, and Overnight open.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various companies including AMVESCO, ASDA, B&Q, B&S, B&W, B&Z, B&C, B&D, B&E, B&F, B&G, B&H, B&I, B&J, B&K, B&L, B&M, B&N, B&O, B&P, B&Q, B&R, B&S, B&T, B&U, B&V, B&W, B&X, B&Y, B&Z.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table of LIFFE options for various commodities including Gold, Silver, and various currencies.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for various metals including Gold, Silver, Platinum, and various alloys.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and terms including Dollar, Deutsche Mark, Swiss Franc, and Yen.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, London, and various metal prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms including 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.



سكنا من الاجل

# America's object lesson for Europe

An address by Hillary Clinton was the highlight of the World Economic Forum in Davos, not least because of the worldwide interest in her husband's private life. But in a serious sense, it could not have been more appropriate that an American should deliver the keynote speech of the meeting. In 1998, America and the Anglo-Saxon model reign supreme.

This is partly by virtue of market failures in Asia and continental Europe, but also because President Clinton's Administration boasts by far the best economic record in the world: It has balanced its budget, it has low inflation, a long upswing in economic growth which shows no sign of faltering and, above all, it has created jobs: millions of them.

America is the envy of the world. Britain comes a close second. Much has been said about Britain being sidelined in Europe because of the decision to delay entry into the single currency. Its

presidency of the European Union has been dismissed as a damp squib as a result. But, judging from the widespread admiration of Britain's record in Davos, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown might get a surprisingly good hearing.

Continental Europeans have moved beyond worrying about the euro itself to the question of how to promote growth and create jobs within the monetary strait-jacket that most people are betting that the European Central Bank will impose. All the potential answers seem to come from America. Even traditional European derision for the income inequalities inherent in America's free-wheeling free market system seems to have gone out of fashion.

One young French businessman offered figures to show that

America had no higher a proportion of people in poverty than in any of the leading European countries. Several other Europeans in Davos refuted the prejudice invariably on display from their own political leaders that America has created nothing but hamburger flipper jobs.

The dynamism of America's private sector and the manifest success of its entrepreneurs is what everyone is now analysing. Although Davos saw some worrying about the damage that can be wrought by the free flow of capital and some talk about re-regulation in the post-Asia panic, government has no place in the globalised economy that the hardest business heads are talking about.

The phenomenon which differentiates American entrepreneurs from others more than anything is



JANET BUSH

their ability to embrace the new technologies that are changing the economic landscape. It is estimated that as many as eight million of the 12 million jobs created in America since 1990 are in telecommunications and information technology. America led the phenomenon of the Internet, the popularity of which even Bill Gates failed to anticipate. In 1994,

1995 and 1996 Internet traffic increased by 100 per cent each year. In 1997 growth was nearer 1,000 per cent.

The knowledge revolution is well under way, although, outside America, one would scarcely realise it. New technologies are changing the dynamic of companies and corporate success in a fundamental way. Microsoft, now under fire for its monopolistic success, is the most celebrated example of a new law of increasing, rather than diminishing, returns. As W. Brian Arthur, of America's Santa Fe Institute explains, those who get ahead in new technology tend to get further ahead. Microsoft came up with Dos, then Windows. Once a critical mass of PC users chose Windows, everyone else fell in line. It is a hallmark of new technology that everyone prefers to

talk to each other in the same language. Markets can soon be cornered by those companies prepared to risk billions of dollars in research and development. The first disk of Windows cost Microsoft \$50 million, the second and subsequent disks cost \$3 million.

The implications for corporate behaviour are enormous. Management becomes less a matter of control, planning and steadily reducing costs, and more a matter of, as Professor Arthur puts it, "a series of quests for the next technological winner". He said: "The art of playing the tables in the Casino of Technology is primarily a psychological one. What counts to some degree is technical expertise, deep pockets, will and courage. Above all, the rewards go to the players who are first to make sense of the new

games looming out of the technological fog," he said.

Professor Arthur's description of the Casino of Technology, of course, only describes one phenomenon of the world economy. However, against a background in which traditional industries are under increasing pressure to rationalise, cut costs and shed labour, and in which the new jobs are largely being created by those businesses which are successfully surfing each new wave of technology, the lessons from the computer industry in America are highly pertinent.

The object lesson for European policymakers as they try to inject some dynamism into their economies — and tackle massive levels of structural unemployment — are manifest. Success in the new economy needs a high level of skills, adaptable management which puts talent at the forefront of their businesses, abundant risk capital and governments which keep out of the way.

# To the advisers the spoils when mega-deals drive up size of fees

**Richard Miles**  
says charges are secondary if the companies are keen to do the deal

As a tide of mergers and acquisitions sweeps across Europe and the US, the spotlight has fallen once more on the high fees paid out to investment bankers and other professional advisers. City observers are asking, not for the first time, whether bankers truly deserve such a large part of the spoils.

The issue has been brought starkly into focus by the surprise announcement last Friday of a £100 billion marriage between Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham, the biggest merger in corporate history and the latest in a long line of deals.

At £100 billion, the Glaxo merger dwarfs the combined value of all mergers and acquisitions in Europe last year, put by *Acquisitions Monthly*, the specialist magazine, at £67 billion. It more than rivals the £22.7 billion MCI-Worldcom deal, outshines the £15 billion merger of UBS and Swiss Bank Corporation, and makes the £5.8 billion Compaq-Digital tie-up look like small fry.

If the Glaxo-SmithKline deal is completed, then the ranks of advisers involved in the match of these two pharmaceutical companies are likely to pick up fees of at least £400 million. The spoils could be more, but because investment banks, lawyers and auditors are notoriously tight-lipped on the subject, no one will ever know for sure.

The bulk will go to the lead investment banks: Lazard for Glaxo and Morgan Stanley for SmithKline. Both would not comment on fee structures yesterday. But there are a host of other advisers to be paid: Hoare Govett, Credit Suisse First Boston de Zotte, lawyers Linklaters and Slaughter & May. The list goes on.

Given the complexity of many transactions today, fee structures vary widely. "I have seen one £1.2 billion deal



Deals between Sir Richard Sykes, left, of Glaxo, and Ian Leschly, right, of SB, and bottom, Mathis Cabjallavetta (UBS) and Marcel Oepel (SBC) provide big fees. So did the failed deal, top, between Ben Roberts (MCI) and Sir Iain Vallance (BT)



where the investment bank took £12 million, and another where the bank took just £5.5 million: it depends on the nature of deal," says a partner at one leading City legal firm heavily involved in mergers and acquisitions.

Whether the deal is contested or uncontested, the level of remuneration: hostile bids demand a premium because of the extra work involved for the bank. How the transaction is financed will also have significant bearing on fees: obviously, cash deals come cheaper than paper-based offers.

Fifteen or 20 years ago, investment banks charged fees according to recognised fees, says Philip Kendall, the partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, who heads the PLC advisory service. The so-called Lehman scale deter-

mined the level of remuneration by size of deal. Generally, investment banks would receive 1 per cent of the transaction's worth. Mr Kendall says an investment bank acting on behalf of the bidder would typically charge 1 per cent on any deal valued at between £20 million and £100 million. Below that, the bank would charge a higher, probably flat fee, because the costs involved in smaller deals were often as heavy as in a large transaction.

Conversely, deals valued at £100 million or more would see a reduction in the percentage charge. "Over £500 million, there would be a significant erosion on that percentage. Often, the banks would take a fee of only 0.25 per cent. In something like the impending Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham

merger, the fee will be substantially lower than the 1 per cent," says Mr Kendall. Of course, that's only the fee paid to the investment bank acting on behalf of the bidder. The bank on the other side of the deal also expects payment, though probably of a slightly lower level. Total fees on a deal can reach as much as 5 per cent of the transaction's value: that equates to a half a billion pounds in the case of the Glaxo-SmithKline deal.

The bulk of the fees will be claimed by the lead investment banks, leaving the rest of the spoils to be divided among the other professional advisers: brokers, auditors, lawyers and even public relations firms. PR firms will get the smallest slice of the cake, typically tens of thousands of pounds, rather

than millions. Of the remaining, the legal fraternity is growing increasingly important as mergers and acquisitions cross borders and competition issues threaten to become serious obstacles to the completion of a deal, as they clearly were in the mooted merger of Barclays and NatWest.

Document verification, regulatory intervention and competition issues are all grist to the lawyer's mill. "Times are good, but we are still working our way out of the recession of the early 1990s," protests a partner from one City firm.

But are fees really an issue for UK plc's? Companies may have wised up to the ploys of investment banks since the 1980s, but often senior managers are so keen to complete a deal that the advisers' fees are very much a secondary issue.

All in, in the context of £100 billion acquisition, what difference is the odd £10 million going to make?

"If Goldmans or Merrill Lynch can do the deal for £110 billion rather than £100 billion, are you really going to think twice about paying 1 per cent instead of three-quarters of a per cent? No one hires an adviser on fee," says one corporate finance executive.

This attitude certainly prevails among large corporations, whose management derives a large measure of comfort from having a blue-chip bank on its side. In turn, the big investment banks need to charge high fees to pay the salaries, and more significantly, the bonuses of their staff.

Banks also defend their high fees on the grounds that the cost of bidding for work is highly expensive, often running into hundreds of thousands of pounds. As much work is now done on a "no win, no fee" basis, banks commonly plead that the multimillion-pound fee on the one deal that they complete pays for the ten others that never came to fruition.

But there is growing evidence that smaller companies, and even medium-sized enterprises, have grown more price sensitive in recent years. They are far more likely to consider cost when shopping around for an adviser.

This sensitivity, coupled with growing competition at the lower end of the banking spectrum, is exerting a downward pressure on fees in the mid and small caps sector. Smaller merchant banks such as Close Brothers and Schroders are increasingly being challenged by the large accountancy firms such as Coopers & Lybrand. A wider choice of advisers is having a significant impact on fees.

"Investment banking has become a polarised industry," says Mr Kendall. "The top tier comprises five to ten banks which are global players. They charge top whack and do most of the deals. The rest is picked up by the smaller players."

While it is undeniable that British companies are these days likely to take the advice of their investment banker as the gospel truth, they still seem prepared to pay the high fees demanded of them. Until this changes, investment bankers and other advisers will continue to draw high wages.

# Thatcher aide turns sleepy GUS into tiger

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale has taken his gloves off. Since becoming chairman of Great Universal Stores, he has been expected to come up with a surprise — and with £2 billion of firepower it should have been a big one. However, in spite of his hard-hitting reputation from his days as Baroness Thatcher's Downing Street chief of staff and then at Next, the £1.68 billion hostile bid for Argos had been predicted by no one.

If he succeeds, it will be the most dramatic upheaval for GUS in its 81-year history — making its £1.02 billion acquisition of Experian seem quite pedestrian.

Before David Wolfson became executive chairman 18 months ago, the very idea of a billion-pound takeover — let alone two within a few months of each other — would have been laughed out of the boardroom by his cousin and predecessor, Leonard, Lord Wolfson.

The company was founded in 1917 by Sir Isaac Wolfson, Leonard's father and David's uncle. Well-run, with uninterrupted profits growth for almost 50 years and no cash calls, it was seen as a reliable colossus with zero surprise factor.

Leonard Wolfson continued this tradition when he took the helm, ensuring tremendous cash generation. Although this meant that GUS did not slip into debt in 40 years, his detractors dubbed the company a "sleeping elephant" — quietly amassing a cash pile with few ideas of what to do with it.

David Wolfson is more mercurial and a visionary. He is not the type to sit counting pennies for very long. The clash of characters between the two cousins was blamed for David Wolfson's sudden departure from GUS in 1978. He became Lady Thatcher's chief of staff in her halcyon days of 1979-85 and was made a life peer in 1991. He returned to retailing, joining forces with David Jones in

1989 to save Next from the financial turmoil it faced as a result of George Davies's ambitious expansion of it. He won respect in the City as part of a team still seen as the retail duo of the decade.

His arrival at GUS in 1996 was expected to bring the start of change, but no shocks. He had patched things up with his cousin, and was soon hailed as being just as analytical as his predecessor and with ideas that were, if anything, more workable.

Hopes of a gradual change were shattered in 1996 when David Wolfson secured the £1.02 billion acquisition of Experian, the world's largest direct mail database, merging it with the company's CCN database business.

The pace has not abated. Months later, GUS bought Direct Market Technologies for £150 million and then Burton's Innovations catalogue for £20 million. In little more than a year, Lord Wolfson reinvented GUS as a company that will this year make more from financial and information services than from retailing.

It was in computers that Lord Wolfson was expected to pounce next. With such a cash pile, and a fragmented market, the City expected him to mop up the minor players — as in Monday's £70 million bid for France's largest cheque processor.

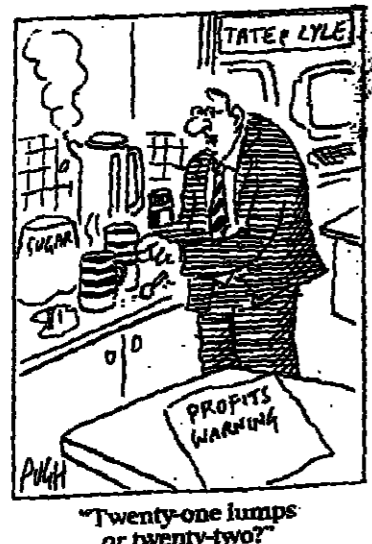
Lord Wolfson now has a following in the City that other industrialists can only dream of. After his resurrecting of Next and bedding down of Experian, even analysts who claim not to be mesmerised by his boldness say that if anyone can make a complex acquisition work, he can.

The Argos bid is the first hostile bid — by both Lord Wolfson and GUS, and a long, dirty fight is in prospect. The sleeping elephant has at last become a prowling predator.

# Pitch battle

ALAN SUGAR is not a man to cross. The Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal chairman's passion for litigation against his former business partners is now reaching fever pitch.

After suing the former Spurs manager, Terry Venables, he turned his attention to Seagate Technology, the computer disk drive maker, securing an £80 million settlement and is due in court later this year with a similar action against Western Digital of California. Now his lawyers have set their sights on Sandersone CSL, the software firm.



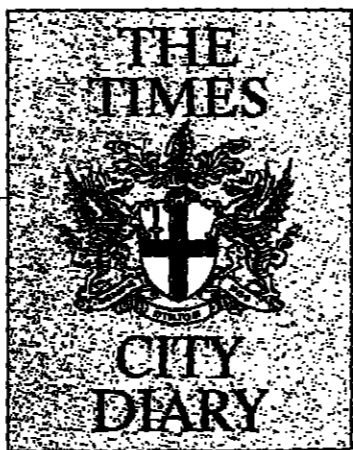
"Twenty-one lumps or twenty-two?"

Sugar blames the IT bods for the failure of Amstrad Direct, his attempt to sidestep the likes of Dixons and Comet and sell computers directly to the public. The writ is claiming millions in damages. It could also help the attempt by Spurs to stay in the Premiership. Sandersone's parent company sponsors two other top flight strugglers, Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday.

NOT only has he just launched his new company but property developer Nick Leslau also has a new son, Jonah. This is his third, after Ori (sic) and Jake. Leslau has dreamt that the trio will play for Saracens, the rugby club owned by Nigel Wray, his long-time business partner. "I've offered Nigel an option on them as a back row for 2018," Leslau tells me.

## Off the menu

PRET A MANGER's future as an independent company looks assured for now, despite bizarre rumours of a mouth-watering £260 million offer from Granada circulating in the City. Sinclair Beecham, who despite sounding like a drugs company is actually Julian Metcalfe's partner at the high-class sandwich purveyor, assures me he has received no such offer. "But I would be delighted to



pay you a handsome commission if you could broker such a deal," he adds sardonically, pointing out that the chain still has just 65 stores with a turnover of less than £60 million.

Having just ventured outside London to cities such as Leeds, Birmingham and Oxford, the pair plan to spend the next three years expanding throughout the UK before turning their attention to international expansion. The prospect of the French abandoning their baguettes in favour of an English-style "sandwich" draws ever closer.

## Beer match

MEANWHILE Parisiens are enjoying a few glasses of Dark de Triomphe. In Seine and Rasp-beret

Lager at the Paris Real Ale Brewery, which is the latest venture of David Bruce, founder of the Firkin chain of real ale pubs. But all is not well at the firm's two bars — the Frog & Rosbif and Frog & Princess — thanks to a case of *le terrain gelé* at the new Stade de France, on the outskirts of Paris.

The Brewery has geared up to sell an extra 15,000 pints this weekend, thanks to the thousands of rugby fans pouring through Le Chunnel to watch France v England. But it appears the match may now be cancelled. Paul Chantler, Bruce's sidekick, tells me he is not overly concerned. "A lot of people will come anyway as they have bought their Eurostar tickets," he says. "And they will need something to do."

MOHAMMED AL FAYED has Friends in strange places. A colleague was in Finland and met the official Santa Claus, who has near-diplomatic status in the Baltics. The conversation turned to Santa's recent visit to Harrods. "That Mohammed Al Fayed is a very nice man," said Santa. "How come he has not been given a British passport?"

## Foresight saga

ONE person watching events at Inter-Continental Hotels with interest is Gavin Simonds, who quit as joint managing director of the Japanese-owned chain in 1996 when plans for a flotation were put on ice. He is working with a cruise line company, but

the word is that he is not averse to a return to the hotel industry. It seems that Simonds was among those approached by headhunters appointed by Thistle Hotels to seek a replacement for Robert Peel, the former chief executive. Other names doing the rounds include Neil Chisman, the well-respected finance director of Thistle, although a spokeswoman for Thistle assures me no decision has been taken.

One can only compliment the foresight of the merchant bankers at Kleinwort Benson where Simonds used to be a director. They took one look at his physical attributes and nicknamed him Basil Fawley.

JASON NISSÉ



Fawley — or is it Simonds? Equally at home in hotels

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# Equities recover early fall

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98
High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>BANKS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>CHEMICALS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>ENGINEERING</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5

1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98
High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>HOUSEHOLD GDS &amp; TEXT</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>OIL &amp; GAS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>MINING</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5

1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98
High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>LONGS (over 15 years)</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>UNDATED</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>MEDIAS (5 to 15 years)</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5

1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98
High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>					
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<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>					
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<b>RETAILERS, GENERAL</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>WATER</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>RETAILERS, FOOD</b>					
125	124	Asahi Brew	124.5	+0.4	18.5
<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>					
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# Let us now praise best cellars

As the ninth annual British Book Awards ceremony prepares to cast off on a sea of bonhomie and Bolly, Nicolette Jones recalls some lowlife highlights among the literati

Tomorrow night the book trade gathers for the ninth annual British Book Awards ceremony. Another evening you might think, like the Booker, the Whitbread or the NCR, in which the literati meet to applaud the best in contemporary letters. Well, not exactly. For this is the industry's own jamboree, and many of the authors who attend and even win the "Nibbies" (the trophies are facsimile pen nibs) have no hope of getting anywhere near such shortlists. Literary critics hardly get a look in: the main

"Academy" of trade folk — publishers, booksellers, even some writers. In the first years this seemed to be a handful of friends of the organisers at *Publishing News* (the book trade's "tabloid"); now it comprises a respectable if rather randomly selected 300 or so insiders who are invited to send in a form and venture an opinion.

They acknowledged Salman Rushdie's plight and made him Author of the Year in 1995, giving him a chance to thank booksellers for their solidarity. In other years, the Academy chose, in various categories, Sebastian Faulks, Roddy Doyle, Alan Bennett and Peter Ackroyd. On the other hand, they have also honoured Andrew Morron, Peter Mayle, Wilbur Smith, Catherine Cookson and, bizarrely, the Prince of Wales. Commerciality counts most, with other kinds of merit a plus. Which makes Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary* my hot tip for the forthcoming Book

**Lord Lichfield told a cringe-making anecdote about his friend Jilly Cooper**

of the Year. And ironically, as with Roddy Doyle, the Nibbies are likely to agree with the Booker again this year. *Arundhati Roy* is the front-runner for Newcomer of the Year; the trade loves Booker winners that sell. Competent publishers win the Publisher of the Year award, and distinguished editors have been lauded, although one commentator says the winners are often "people who never touch a book"; they buy them but they don't work on them. Nevertheless, those in the trade set ever more store by the Nibbies. It is a mark of respect from peers, whose good opinion everyone most desires. Almost all the significant publishing houses book a table, although there have been notable exceptions: Faber & Faber rarely attends, despite winning Publisher of the Year in 1989. Numbers rise yearly, and the venues have got bigger, purportedly to make space, although there's always too little. Tomorrow, ominously, the organisers report that the Hilton has provided "chairs without arms" to make room for more. Be there, or be able to move your elbows.

The distinguishing feature of the Nibbies has always been its "between friends" lack of inhibition. Gossip columnist who are not there miss a trick. The speeches often resemble the best man's at a wedding reception: people say things they later wish they hadn't. A case in point is Sarah Kenne-



Read any good books lately? Celebrity guests at the book trade's annual celebration of commerciality have included Dennis Pennis (left), John Barnes and Gillian Taylor.

dy's joke last year involving a little boy's willy. If it had had a wider audience it wouldn't have done a career in children's television any good. And someone usually gets offended: one year, biographer and former lit. ed. Graham Lord upset a good contingent of publicity people as he presented their award by suggesting that the Nibby should be renamed the "Belinda or some such" after all the "Belindas and Melindas and Melissas and Amandas" who work in the field. The Lizes and Jackie found this dismissive and patronising. Lord himself was later miffed when fellow lit. ed. Peter Grosvenor cast wild aspersions in a speech about Lord's sexual activities. "I told him it was

bloody rude," says Lord. In the last four years under the MC-ship of Ned Sherrin, the ceremony has at least been glued together with considerable professionalism, but it has had some great naff moments. In the first year a barker obliged the unfortunate writers who were present to stand up at their dinner tables and be seen as their names were called. "Mr A.S. Byatt" boomed the liveried fohorn, and the poor Booker Prize winner was forced to rise to her feet.

That same year the photographer Lord Lichfield told a cringe-making anecdote about his friend Jilly Cooper heartily baring her breasts to encourage his bashful calendar girls. Jeffrey Archer once compered

the occasion, telling the self-effacing and surely apocryphal story of opening an account at Hatches. "Do you earn £10,000?" the assistant asked Archer. "Some days I do and some days I don't," the writer replied. (Things have looked up recently, when Archer has become a favourite butt of other people's jokes, such as Sherrin's last year: "Jeffrey Archer couldn't come because he was in the middle of a novel. So he should be here in about half an hour.")

There are always gaffes and technical hitches, too. Like the time Alan Clark read the name of a sponsor off the front of an awards envelope as the winner, instead of opening the envelope. Or when absent peer and publisher Paul Hamlyn expressed his thanks for a lifetime award in a speech relayed from foreign parts: it was rendered incomprehensible by interference.

It is not the intentional humour (of which Alan Bennett's 1996 speech was probably the all-time greatest example) that is the most outrageous part of the proceedings, but the misbehaviour that happens off the platform. Dennis Pennis pursued the hapless Norma Major (at a time when her husband was PM), asking her to pose for a magazine feature called "Leaders' Wives", and the event is always rich with stories of how drunk everyone gets. One publisher is rumoured to have lost his trousers during the evening; the next day he had no idea how or where, and never found out. On another occasion Peter Ackroyd left the event in, let's say, a bit of a haze, and dropped his Nibby in the snow. His agent, staggering beside him, scrambled for it in the slush and had it in his office for months before Ackroyd reclaimed it. Media attention has so far been scant for these awards, partly because few hacks are invited to the dinner. But as the event gets more publicised and public the trade may get more self-conscious and less likely to disgrace itself: there are those who would like to see the Nibbies more literary and dignified. But perhaps that would be a shame.

**AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER**

## EXCLUSIVE TICKETS FOR THE BEST OF LONDON FASHION WEEK

Nine special Sunday Times catwalk shows in association with Debenhams

To celebrate London Fashion Week, *The Sunday Times*, in association with Debenhams, is offering readers exclusive tickets to nine spectacular catwalk shows. You will see the very best of this year's spring-summer collections by Britain's leading designers, plus an exclusive sneak preview of their autumn-winter fashions — six months before they reach the shops. Tickets are only £14 with a strictly limited number of front row seats available for £25.

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After the 45-minute catwalk show, you will have the chance to buy clothes and accessories at greatly reduced prices, courtesy of BAA McArthur Glen, the designer-outlet specialists.

The catwalk shows will be held in the grounds of the Natural History Museum, London SW7, from February 26 to 28, 1998. Readers can book their exclusively discounted tickets by simply phoning the number below, quoting *The Sunday Times* offer.

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CHANGING TIMES

**DRAMA: In Berlin Daniel Rosenthal sees Nazi ghosts on a unique stage**

Watching last week's world premiere of Esther Vilar's *Speer* at the Academy of Arts in Berlin, the coincidence of dramatic fiction and real-life setting could scarcely have been more unheralded.

Between 1938 and 1941 Hitler and Albert Speer, his architect and, later, arms minister, met almost every day in a high-ceilinged hall at the Academy. It was there that they planned Germania, the gigantic city which would have served as capital of a Nazi-conquered world, but which, thankfully, "exists" only as the backdrop for Robert Harris's best-seller, *Fatherland*.

Last Friday Vilar's gripping two-hander brought a 70-year-old Speer (Peter Simonischek) back to that same hall to reflect on the time he spent there. On the sixty-fifth anniversary of Hitler's accession to power, we were sitting where he often sat. As Vilar, whose Jewish father fled Germany in the Thirties, said before the performance: "The ghosts of those two monsters are all around us."

The drama is set in 1980, when Speer, having completed the 20-year sentence handed down at Nuremberg, was a free man. The Academy, situated beside the Brandenburg Gate, was being used by the Stasi as a detention centre for East Germans captured attempting to climb over the nearby wall.

Speer enters with Hans Bauer (Klaus Maria Brandauer), a fictional Stasi officer who plies his guest with champagne and flattery, seemingly overwhelmed by the chance for a private audience with Hitler's "organisational genius".

He unveils a gleaming scale replica of Germania's 320-metre high Great Hall, then projects Thirties propaganda film showing a model of the complete city. With Simonischek's tall, broad-shouldered frame silhouetted against the flickering black and white images, we might, chillingly, have been in 1938, not 1980.

Gradually, Bauer's admiring questions give way to aggressive interrogation of the man who always denied knowledge of the Final Solution. Speer, long accustomed to facing "a nightly Nuremberg", has a sophist's answer

## If Hitler's walls could speak...

for every charge. After an hour, we learn the real reason why Erich Honecker's Government has invited Speer to East Berlin: to offer him a job. Will he come out of retirement to revive the economy of a bankrupt GDR? Would a fascist rescue the communists? Speer is too vain to say no.

Neither man emerges wholly triumphant, but since Brandauer, who also directs, hopes to stage an English translation of the play in London (the Academy Hall is about the size of the Cottesloe; John Wood or Ian McKellen could make fine Speers), it would be wrong to reveal the conclusion of a story with not one, but three stings in its tail.

Brandauer was magnificent. The charm, restless energy and sly intelligence familiar from his roles in films such as *Mephisto* are even more compelling live. With admirable restraint, Simonischek (a long-time colleague of Brandauer's in Austrian theatre) left no doubt that Speer's heartless ambition was as monumental as his architectural vision.

The *Speer* project began in 1996. Vilar, the Argentine-born author of 14 plays, but known here principally for *The Manipulated Man*, her best-selling non-fiction analysis of sexual politics, was approached by Lukas Leuenberger, a Swiss theatre producer who wanted to stage a play about Speer.

"I was not at all that interested until I met a German architectural historian who told me about the Academy," she recalls. "I visited the hall — and ten minutes after I had left, the outline of the plot was in my head."

"I couldn't have brought myself to write lines for Hitler and dramatise the actual meetings. My feelings about what they did made it hard enough writing for Speer. I tried to be as objective as possible and let the audience be his judge."

Permission to use the Academy came only after lengthy negotiations, and, since the building is about to be completely renovated, there would not have been a second chance to use the hall as Hitler and Speer knew it. Saturday's performance, the second of a ten-day run, was televised live throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Vilar hopes the TV recording will preserve Speer's association with the Academy forever.

For those most closely involved in the production last weekend, there was no escaping the war. Vilar, who lives in Spain, Brandauer and Simonischek were all staying behind the Academy at the recently restored Adlon — Hitler's favourite hotel.

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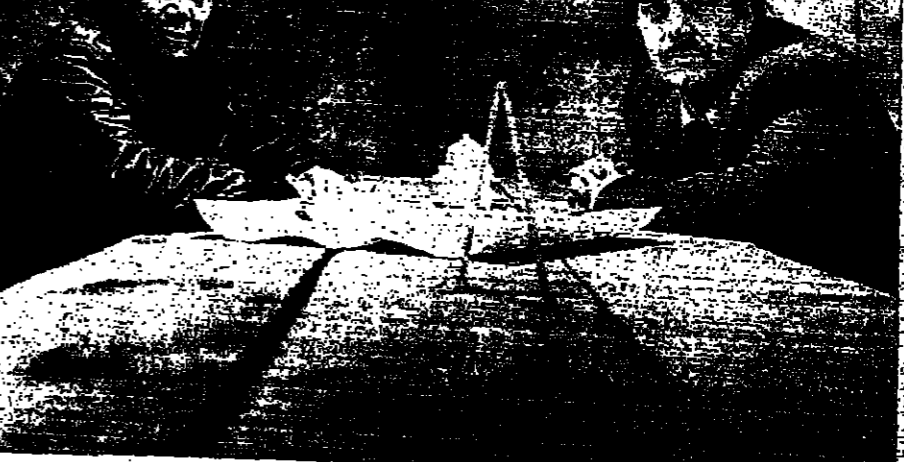
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Klaus Maria Brandauer (left) as the Stasi officer interrogating Speer (Peter Simonischek)



# A director for the holed family

Ang Lee's latest movie, *The Ice Storm*, continues his career-long theme of spouses and others failing to communicate. Now, he tells Vicki Reid, he wants to go to war

Whether he likes it or not, Ang Lee's films are associated with the family. He it was who captured a new audience for Jane Austen with the Oscar-winning *Sense and Sensibility*, a delicate and sharp decoding of Austen's society. The film was an unusual take on English literature from a Taiwan-born man who moved to New York in 1978.

But where *Sense and Sensibility* was about "personal free will against social boundaries", as Lee puts it, his latest film, a startling adaptation of Rick Moody's novel *The Ice Storm*, offers a vision of free love and pop psychology in early 1970s Connecticut. "The social codes are liberating and you're supposed to be hip, to be open-minded," says the director. "But it has the opposite effect. It's an inversion of all the social codes."

*The Ice Storm* plays out the sexually liberated, free-wheeling, wide-collared drama of a family shackled by the very lack of constraints they purport to embrace. "This is an edgy, embarrassing view of American history, and it's the darker side of family drama," Lee says. Communication between husband (Kevin Kline) and wife (Joan Allen), and consequently with their children (Christina Ricci and Tobey Maguire), has broken down. Every character stumbles through their personal sexual neuroses, the gulf widening until the night of the ice storm, where the consequences of each person's action are played out. "They're all heading towards bad sex, and they're all facing moral choices," Lee says. "At times I felt like I was making a disaster movie, which is a very 1970s thing, because there is the natural disaster of the ice storm, as well as the human disaster they're all heading towards."

*The Ice Storm* could still be classed a period piece, albeit a recent one, where the likes of Richard Nixon, polyester and Erica Jong provide the backdrop (and the morals) to bourgeois Connecticut. Lee is not intimidated by working with another culture's history. "Making a period piece is a way of getting away from who you are," he says. "In a way, once you have that distance, through the costume and the whole look of that time, it's easier to reach the core of pure emotion and abstract thoughts."

That core still somehow manages to return to the notion of family, and the nuances it creates. More often than not it is the father's role that is pivotal. "I really cast the whole movie around Kevin Kline, who represents the confused father in Western society. He still plays out the stern father's role, but inside he's losing his grip."

This is something Lee has touched upon before, with what he calls his "Father Knows Best" trilogy — *Pushing Hands* (1991), *The Wedding Banquet* (1993) and *Eat Drink Man Woman* (1994) — a poignant examination of the subtle shifts and changes of the family unit within his own traditional culture. "I thought it would be a very funny concept without the mother," Lee says. "Everyone's trying to take on that role. There's also this fascinating conflict: each daughter represents women's roles today, and the father represents the head of traditional heterosexual society, facing confusion."

*The Wedding Banquet*, a tale of a marriage of convenience to mask a gay relationship, has its metaphorical roots in Lee's own relationship with his father. "The idea of doing this film was very much like a son being gay. A useless man." His father, a scholar, was initially extremely unhappy about Lee making films. "Film-making is the entertainment business. In Taiwan that's the lowest. It's not criminal, but it has very low social status, almost shameful, especially after the serious upbringing that I had." There is a happy ending, though. "Of course, success brings honour to the family, and lately I've started making money."

Critics have often lauded Lee for his ability to create sensitive, strong female characters, but he claims his upbringing was the total antithesis to what he has since learnt from his wife, Jane, a microbiologist. "I didn't really respect women until I met my wife," he says. "It took years to get where I am. The way I grew up was totally male chauvinistic, but I don't go back any more. My wife took over, it's a very maternal family, she's dominant to our lives [Lee has two sons, aged 13 and 7], which is so opposite to how I grew up. She has a huge influence on the way I view life, and eventually that goes into my art."

Whether it be within his own



"At times I felt like I was making a disaster movie," says Ang Lee of *The Ice Storm*. "The natural disaster, and the human disaster"

family upbringing, or leaving his homeland to move to New York, or even making films in English, Lee has essentially always drifted towards the role of outsider. He claims "social life" has been the hardest to adjust to. "Even today, I don't know what to say. It's about not having the knowledge or the skill to carry on intelligent conversation." This is a theme of his films — communication as the stumbling block.

Born in 1954, Lee is the oldest son of parents who left China during the Revolution. He found his vocation on stage and moved to America in his early twenties to study drama at the University of Illinois, then film at New York University. Surprisingly,

given his upbringing, film was never seen as an act of rebellion. "I was a failure in every other way, I was just clumsy," he says. "This is true. It's not false modesty or anything. Making movies and cooking are the only things where people don't yell at me and I feel like I am the focus." It still took six years in limbo, developing scripts that never got made, before Lee had his break with *Pushing Hands*.

He has been quoted as saying: "I like things that scare me. Making movies is my devil's side." Yes, there have been stories of on-set upsets. Joan Allen said of her on-set experiences: "It took us all some time to get used to his method of communicating — he's very blunt and very specific and he won't settle for less than what he wants. Sometimes you had to have a thick skin. But he's not a mean person." Ultimately, though, a fond mutual respect tends to develop between Lee and his actors. If anything, the *Ice Storm* tension was caused by culture clash. "In Taiwan, they expect the director to come up with everything," Lee says. "Nobody challenges you. We weren't brought up communicating. You grow up taking orders until you're old enough to give orders. *Sense and Sensibility* was my first taste of having to convince people to do what I wanted." "Also, you do need the killer instinct. Show business is show and

**I was born to make movies; I was a failure in every other way?**

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

### SAUL METZSTEIN

Age: 27.

Profession: Film and documentary director.

Training: Went from a Glasgow comp to study architecture at Cambridge. "Everybody I spoke to told me not to study film." His real training came as an apprentice to Danny Boyle et al on *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting* — "they showed me what you could do on a tiny budget."

What's his form? Equally at home with concrete and softer ground, Metzstein spreads his talents between sweet, beautifully crafted short films (*Café Rendezvous*, *Magic Moments*) and documentaries about motorways and structural monstrosities (*The Piper*, *Westway Story*). Also responsible for the James Stewart documentary shown over Christmas, and the BBC has subsequently commissioned another documentary, on the Glasgow to London train.

Er, sounds fascinating. Better believe it. His film about the Westway for Carlton's coveted Metroland slot was not only funny but came close to making one like the damn thing. Why the interest in concrete slabs and steel? The architecture degree aside, Metzstein likes turning things upside down: "I am interested in taking things that people don't like and making them see them in a new way."

Why is one with such lofty thoughts filming charming comedies? "I love all romantic comedies; I think it's a Glasgow/Jewish sentimentality thing."

Where do they show, and who pays for them? *Magic Moments* was sponsored by Levi's to be shown before *Ma Vie en Rose*, and is still doing the international festival circuit. Earlier works were made with Scottish film funds.

Why has he never made a full-length feature film? "One of the first things I learnt was that to make a good film you have to really love the script." Metzstein has decided to sit it out until the right one comes along.



HETTIE JUDAH

## Lords of the song and dance

JOSHUA BELL's week-long Dvořák and Bartók Festival at the Wigmore Hall rose to a heady climax on Saturday when four friends — two from the Endellion Quartet and two from North America — joined him in a truly festive performance of Dvořák's String Quintet in G major.

The voice of the folksong and the foothold of dance, which rings out from the very heart of both composers, permeates this Quintet so thoroughly that it becomes inextricable from Dvořák's own imaginings. Bell's violin set the pace both for the fiery Allegro and for the stomping Scherzo, twining the rhythmic contour of each entry, and daring Ralph de

Souza's second violin and Garfield Jackson's viola to many a rapturous response. In the slow movement, where Dvořák's long and loving study of Schubert is an omnipresent undertow, Edgar Meyer's double-bass plucked its pulse, and Gary Hoffman's cello gave resonant support to the inner parts as they intensified to the movement's climax point.

Cello and double-bass functioned like the percussion instruments of a raucous village band in the boisterous finale, with its admirable risk-taking and property rough-hewn realisation of this great apotheosis of the dance. Those rustic fiddlers had been isolated earlier in the evening,

### CONCERT

Dvořák-Bartók Festival  
Wigmore Hall

in seven of Bartók's 44 Duos for two violins. Here Bell and de Souza held simplicity and sophistication in fine balance. So vividly characterised and strong in their regional accents are these miniatures, that it is difficult to believe that most of them are not originals. Bartók, too, absorbed the folk musics he collected — from Hungary, Serbia, Arabia — deep into his own bloodstream, to be

recreated in a virtuoso pedagogy of pieces. Bell found a wonderfully raw, glaring voice for both *Sorrow* and the *Transylvanian Dance*, while de Souza and he became dangerously seductive partners in a *Mosquito Dance* with a deadly sting in its tail.

Between Bartók and Dvořák came the European premiere of bassist Edgar Meyer's String Trio No 1: four movements composed of three studiously interlocking parts. It promised eclectic echoes of jazz, bluegrass, folk and "other ethnic musics", but turned out to be somewhat pennyplain in its invention, and longwinded in its wit.

HILARY FINCH

## Reflections of fear

### THEATRE

Reader  
Oval House

few to become books "so as to preserve the trees", and one such manuscript tells of Don Alfonso Morales, himself in all but name, who consigned his rebellious wife to torture and death in a so-called *Readjustment Centre*.

Is it a friend of his son who has found out the shameful facts he has hidden so desperately? Or the secretary he fondles beside his desk? Is it perhaps the smug director testing his loyalty?

Rob Curry's production for Fifth Column Theatre uses a severely white design by Daniel Bennett, sparsely furnished except for a desk made up of towers of books, and with upper rooms occasionally lit to show wives or sons, gagged and blindfolded, forced to listen to a coldly menacing goon inform them that "not all pain is bad. Some pain is good for you."

Despite the interest of its subject, the behaviour of scared men during a tyranny, some time passed before I felt myself interested in the performances. John Ashton plays Daniel far too stodgily, and Anthony Smees' trimly black-bearded director is altogether too full of himself. John Sackville gives subtly distinguished performances as various sons. When the reality boundaries crumble and the characters take over the play, this can be seen as a device to throw the choice of our behaviour back to us — hence those mirrors, presumably.

JEREMY KINGSTON

### BRIEFLY NOTED

## Singing a round

**THEATRE:** Shakespeare was a little early for opera, but Shakespeare's Globe is to stage opera. Four performances of John Blow's *Venus and Adonis* — the Restoration opera usually regarded as the model for Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* — will be presented by Philip Pickett and the Musicians of the Globe at the reconstructed Southwark venue this summer. The plays for the 1998 season (opening May 19) will be *As You Like It* and *The Merchant of Venice*, plus two dramas by Shakespeare's contemporaries: *The Honest Whore* by Thomas Dekker and Thomas Middleton, and *A Mad World, My Masters* by Thomas Middleton.

**FESTIVALS:** The American film-maker Hal Hartley turns dramatist this summer, as the Salzburg Festival (July 24 to August 30) premieres his new music-theatre piece, *Soon*. The work is bound to be controversial: Hartley says that it was "inspired by events such as those in Waco surrounding David Koresh and his followers". According to Hartley, charismatic religion in America "has become the creative avant-garde". Salzburg's drama season also includes *Geometry of Miracles*, a play about the architect Frank Lloyd Wright, to be performed by Robert Lepage and his company. The concert programme will include all Beethoven's symphonies played by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle — his last task as the music director of the CBSO.

**MUSIC:** The 50th birthday of the British conductor Richard Hickox looks set to pass in a dream... literally. At the Barbican during March he will conduct three different versions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with his orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia. First (March 17) will be Mendelssohn's complete incidental music, accompanying a performance of Shakespeare's play by RSC members. Then on March 20 comes Weber's opera *Oberon*, in a new English translation by John Warrack. Finally on March 31 Hickox will conduct Britten's operatic setting of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**OPERA:** Peter Brook is returning to directing opera. He will stage *Don Giovanni* at the Aix-en-Provence Festival this summer, with a young cast including the British tenor John-Mark Ainsley. The legendary theatre director has avoided opera houses since staging a sensational *Salome* at Covent Garden (with designs by Salvador Dalí) just after the war.

## Just a happy old cyber hippy

### POP

Julian Cope  
Olympia, Dublin

AT THIS stage in his career, Julian Cope is as famous for being a professional eccentric as he is for being a pop star. These days he's more likely to be seen hanging around Stonehenge than the Groucho Club.

Having made his name as the strikingly handsome lead singer of Liverpool post-punk pop acolytes the Teardrop Explodes, he went on to forge a solo career that may have had its ups and downs but which has never been anything less than fascinating.

Cope's participation in an anti-poll tax march through the centre of London at the fag-end of the Thatcher administration has already passed into legend. Dressed up as his alter ego, Squabbsy, Cope was conspicuous by his presence inside a giant papier-mâché head. Thatcher resigned soon afterwards.

His subsequent records, of which *Interpreter* is the most recent, find him building ecologically correct sentiments around classic psychedelic pop structures. On his current tour, however, he is in solo mode, armed with only an electric guitar and a fluorescent yellow melotron.

This being a midnight show on a Friday, there was already a celebratory buzz around the arena before Cope appeared on stage. Wearing tight leggings and sporting a Barbiesque blonde ponytail, Cope looked rather like someone the Kirov had left behind

on its last trip to Dublin. "I operate on stage as a hermaphrodite," declared Cope proudly to the general bewilderment of his fans, and we knew then that this was not going to be your standard pop gig. In between telling us about the patriarchal symbolism of the microphone stand and how he relishes his role as a cyber hippy and a space-age eco-warrior, Cope took requests from the increasingly sozzled audience.

Consequently, the set list was democratically culled from his back catalogue, including everything from Teardrop classics like *Pasionate Friend* and *The Great Dominions* to solo triumphs like *Soul Desert* and *Sunsports* to the current New Age whimsy of *Planetary Sit-In*. There was even a spot of poetry thrown in.

Through it all Cope was having a ball, even emerging from the stage to meet and greet his ecstatic fans for a hug and a handshake. He could have played on all night, but *Out of my Mind on Dope and Speed* was the showstopper of a hugely enjoyable show at which no artificial stimulants were needed.

NICK KELLY



Tonight, Maria Schneider brings her 'wall of sound' to the Barbican. She talks to Clive Davis

And her band plays on



Schneider: "People still enjoy coming to clubs such as Visiones to hear the sound that a larger ensemble produces"

Tonight, Maria Schneider takes on the wide open spaces of the Barbican Centre. But for more than three years her true musical home has been a small, unpretentious nightclub in Greenwich Village...

London is about to catch up with her. Though she has become a frequent flyer to the rest of Europe, Schneider's acquaintance with this country has progressed no further than the transit lounge at Heathrow Airport...

It is hard to think of anyone better qualified for the assignment. She spent three years as Evans's assistant before his death in 1988, working on such projects as the soundtrack to Martin Scorsese's The Color of Money...

It is certainly not in it for the money. "To some extent I agree that the big band belongs to the past," she says. "But by that I mean the ones that played for dancing. People still enjoy coming to clubs such as Visiones to hear the sound that a larger ensemble produces..."

Miles work, which so often degenerated into laboured quotations from Jimi Hendrix and no-holds-barred blowing contests. Schneider's sidemen sometimes flirt a little too readily with rock rhythms...

She has plenty of commissions (including a dance score) on her desk. Schneider finds herself at a crossroads. With the future ownership of Visiones in doubt, she is not certain what her next move will be...

She remains sceptical of the big commissions. "They'll sign someone because they supposedly like them, but then they don't trust them to do what they do best," she says. "They'll come up with some gimmick-like getting together three people who've never worked together before..."

LONDON

CAMPANAS FLAMENCAS Francisco Sanchez, the creator of the highly acclaimed Campa Flamenco, brings together three generations of outstanding flamenco dancers for a dazzling new display of fiery energy, rhythm and passion...

RICHARD III Eddie Marston plays the villainous hero in a new production of the East End's Shakespearean theatre company. The production is set in the East End of London in the 15th century...

SOUTH BANK MUSIC: A new concert series is being launched in the evening proceedings here as it conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert dedicated to the memory of Mahler...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargis

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group...

GLASGOW: The Scottish Chamber Orchestra under its conductor laureate Sir Charles Mackerras performs an all-Soviet programme...

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: The Art of the Harley, 1911-1914. Goethe Institute, 1911-1914. Museum of London, Beaufort Custody, 1911-1914...

NEVER LAND

NEVER LAND: Set in a French village, where a family is possessed with the evil of a demon...

TERMS OF ABUSE

TERMS OF ABUSE: The New Directions season opens with a first play by Jacques Tardieu...

LONG RUNNERS

Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-259 1733). Cats: New London (0171-405 0273). An Inspector Calls: Gaiety (0171-494 5081)...

THE DELTA

THE DELTA: Sexual odyssey of a woman, one well-off and one poor, and the impact of the AIDS epidemic...

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN: Young male executives play with the shadows of a dead office worker...

RESURRECTION MAN

RESURRECTION MAN: A comedy about a man who is resurrected after being dead for 100 years...

STELLA DOES TRICKS

STELLA DOES TRICKS: A comedy about a woman who is resurrected after being dead for 100 years...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of the current theatre scene in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

National (Lyttelton) South Bank, SE1 0171-223 2255. Tonight-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm.

JOURNALS END: Sam West plays on stage an original play about the First World War...

LETTER OF RESIGNATION: Edward Ford and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Goldsmith...

DELICATE BALANCE: Eben Ayres narrates a welcome return of a play about marriage, parenthood and responsibility...

THE INVENTION OF LOVE: Tom Wood plays a young man who falls in love with a woman who is resurrected after being dead for 100 years...

THE DELTA: Sexual odyssey of a woman, one well-off and one poor, and the impact of the AIDS epidemic...

IN THE COMPANY OF MEN: Young male executives play with the shadows of a dead office worker...

Double whammy

Matthew Shipp/Queen Elizabeth Hall

BILLED as New York is Now, this was a mouth-watering double bill: the first UK appearance by improvising pianist Matthew Shipp, to be followed by the New York Jazz Group...

After such robust adventurousness, the delicate touch of Rosnes and the totally accessible nature of the New York Jazz Group's music provided a telling contrast...

Admirable as these compositions were, however, they did not prove as hospitable to live group interaction as the more straightforwardly punchy Sanchez composition that followed...

CHRIS PARKER

A gospel fallacy

Max Roach's Barbican

A FULL house and a boisterous standing ovation at the end, but this was nevertheless an uneven opening to the new programme of Jazz at the Barbican...

The chair at least had the benefit of Melinda Hoskins' potent vocals. There was, too, a rousing, baritone-led revivalist treatment of 'Going Up Yonder' and a delicate reading of Billy Strayhorn's 'A Flower is a Lovesome Thing'...

CLIVE DAVIS

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 27-28 in the Shadow of the Barbican. Water, Gables 11, Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-5pm.

OPERA & BALLET

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ALWORTH 0171 416 6000. THE NEW MUSICAL. Tonight 7.30 THE NEW MUSICAL.

THEATRES

ADDELPHI 0171 234 0955. 'A Show to Die for' tonight. 'Dropping the Bomb' Express 7. OLIVIER AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING OUTSTANDING MUSICAL PRODUCTION.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1998

# New World, new blood, new sounds

## From Miami to the Barbican: John Allison on the American orchestra that is all about youthful ideals

What's in a name? Quite a lot in the case of the New World Symphony, which in this case is not a play on the title of Dvořák's best-known work. Ten years old today, America's orchestral academy — for that is what the New World Symphony is — buzzes with the excitement of the new. Its players, average age 22, work together with a definite New World vitality. And its base in Miami, the unofficial capital of Latin America, enables it to keep in touch with not just the United States but all the Americas, something reflected in its unique repertoire. Above all, it is somewhere young musicians come to fulfil their own American dreams.

So there could be no more appropriate opening in the "American Sampler" series in the Barbican's festival of American culture than next Tuesday's concert by the New World Symphony, which arrives in London on a performance the previous evening at the Warwick Arts Centre and a birthday appearance in New York. Having warmed up with its own "Music From America" festival in Miami last month, it will be featuring some colourful works on this tour of European musical capitals. Ives, Barber, Adams and the latter's arrangement of Debussy songs make up the Barbican programme, conducted by the NWS's dynamic artistic director, Michael Tilson Thomas, with Barbara Hendricks the soprano soloist.

As a visit to its home at Lincoln Theatre in Miami Beach reveals, the New World Symphony is much more than one of America's most interest-

ing orchestras. In fact, it prefers not to be labelled an orchestra at all, and it is easy to see why. In a highly intensive programme its activities include plenty of non-orchestral music-making. Three-year postgraduate fellowships are held by members of the cream of America's young orchestral musicians. Up to 1,000 compete annually for between 30 and 40 places, good preparation itself for the auditions that they hope will

**‘In this orchestra everything is done from the heart’**

eventually lead to jobs in the profession. But it is one thing to be a brilliant performer, another to be a good orchestral musician and colleague, and that is where the coaching by top players, the chamber, Baroque and new music cycles, community outreach and recording projects all come in.

Tilson Thomas, whose brainchild the NWS was, has clear priorities. "One of the things we examine is what the players most need for their future, and so we work at developing their competitive edge. We look at what life will ask of them, and prepare them, not to be fazed by anything."

"The colossal repertoire — the violent parts in Mahler's Ninth and *Ein Heldenleben*,

for instance, are as difficult as concertos — means that those players who go right from school into a major place experience a few very difficult years. You can see the panic on their faces."

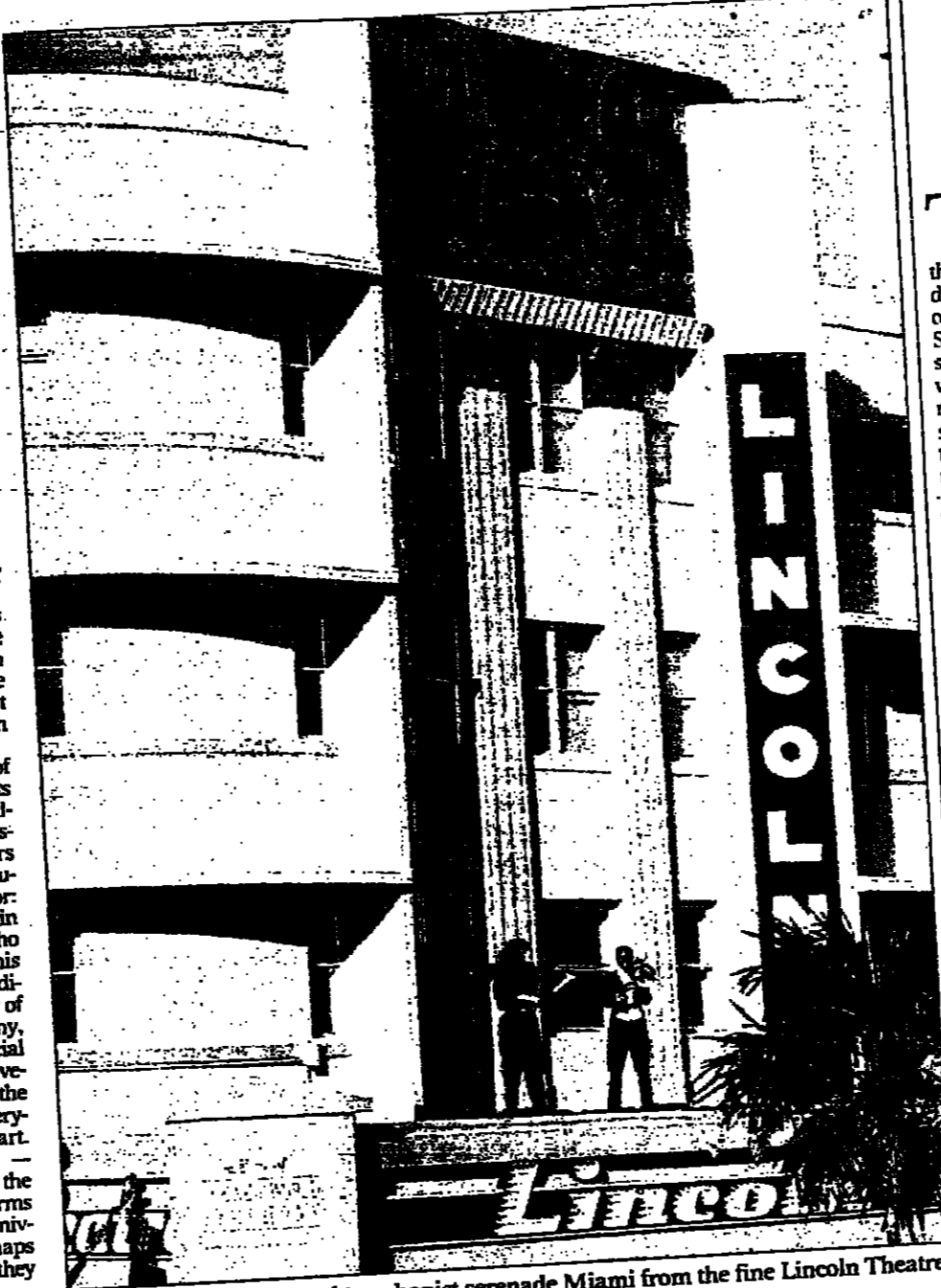
By contrast, the hallmark of this band's playing is its enthusiasm. There is an idealism found in few other orchestras: how many have players like the trumpeter Mark Knouye who say of their conductor: "In his team — he's in ours"? Tilson Thomas, who devotes a big chunk of his schedule to the NWS in addition to being music director of the San Francisco Symphony, reasons that "there's a special kind of emotional involvement. They are still in the process of discovery. Everything is done from the heart. Being in Miami helps — people coming down from the north are very 'tight' in terms of their conservatory or university mind-set, and perhaps because of the weather they loosen up."

The NWS community spirit stems from the fact that all the musicians are housed in two converted hotels in the heart of Miami. Its art deco district, not far by Rollerblades — the favoured mode of transport — from Lincoln Theatre, a converted movie house. It took vision to establish the organisation's headquarters there: though the area is now the height of fashion, even ten years ago it had nothing except a few questionable shops.

Miami may be better known for such pursuits as sun, surf and sex than classical music, but hedonism had nothing to do with the choice of location. "The project began as a happy

confluence between something I'd been talking about for years and the desire of Ted Arison, our major patron, to do something for the city of Miami and music in particular. I really got the idea from conversations with young musicians at Tanglewood and other places — they would spend the summer playing brilliantly, but very often they would have no idea what they would be doing next. So together we ended up with something that benefits Miami but has a national and international dimension."

Tilson Thomas provides a link between the Old and New



A New World fiddler and trombonist serenade Miami from the fine Lincoln Theatre

# Aces on the second set

OPERA  
**Die Walküre**  
Amsterdam

The Netherlands Opera's new Ring cycle reached its second instalment at the Muziektheater on Saturday and, just as when the cycle opened with *Rheingold* last September, the eyes of cash-starved Brits opened wide at what this amazing spectacle must have cost. The Dutch simply shrugged — this is how they do it in Holland, and for a top ticket price of £40.

Any notion that George Teoyin's four-stage, metallic *Rheingold* set was going to serve for all the operas was swiftly dispelled. A wholly new wooden, tilted circular stage had been built thrusting far out into the stalls area, with a square segment removed to accommodate the Netherlands Philharmonic more or less where the real stage would be — the exact opposite of Wagner's ideal of an "invisible orchestra".

As before, the design is abstractly sculptural: what may be the tree piercing Hunding's hut thrusts forward from the centre of the disc to meet what may be Wotan's spear pointing down over our heads from the top of the gallery. There was also a little hut, which caught fire and flew away at the end of Act I for reasons that escaped me.

Indeed, a number of effects are there because they are there — a huge steel mesh for Brünnhilde's Annunciation of Death, the "tree" splitting into five and rearing about, and concentric rings of (real) fire for the *Ride of the Valkyries*, which filled one with alarm at what might happen at the end when Wagner actually calls for fire. In the event, we had to make do with smoke, the wooden disc splitting and a whole new design element thrusting into the space and — again — splitting into five. As lit by Wolfgang Göbbel it all looked so spectacular as almost to prevent one constantly asking "why?"

Much ink is spilt about whether people who stage operas should be called "producers" or "directors". Pierre Audi is definitely a "producer" — he devised the spectacle — and during his largely gestural *mise-en-scène* one wondered whether he might not engage a

director to tighten the focus on the stage action, which is inspired by, rather than drawn from, the text. Nevertheless, this *Walküre* is far more gripping than the slightly bland, technology-dominated *Rheingold*, not least because the singers are much more assured.

John Bröcheler's Wotan, especially, is transformed from the anonymous deity of the *Prologue* into an ideally shifty, bullying autocrat, and he



The spectacular setting for *Die Walküre*

sings with a healthy young tone. John Keyes (Siegmond) is infinitely more at ease on stage than when he first appeared in the Richard Jones *Ring* in Glasgow and, as always, Nadine Secunde gives her all as Sieglinde. Jeannine Almeyer's Brünnhilde is as athletic of appearance as of voice, on occasion worryingly short of breath.

Reinhold Runkel's Fricka is a little butterfly of malevolence.

The one big problem with the unfolding cycle is Hartmut Haenchen's desperately ordinary conducting. I kept wondering just why he was conducting the music and what he thought it was for. We may be starved of spectacle here, but we have Haitink, who happens to be Dutch. Funny old world.

RODNEY MILNES

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The king... free a... Herdman... Various vertical text elements on the right edge of the page.



50 من الاجل

# The king and queen of parties

Rachel Kelly on the castles, baronial mansions and follies that can be hired for the celebration of the millennium

The Albert Hall has been booked since 1975. The Savoy and the Ritz have had as many requests for beds over the millennium that they are to draw names from a hat for their parties. Now the race is on for the rest of us to find somewhere special where we can gather our kith and kin and toast the new year of new years.

The good news is that the prospect of sky-high rents has lured some homeowners to let their houses for the first and probably the last time. Aline and Alexander Hay are typical. They are letting Duns Castle, near Duns in Berwickshire, for the first time for £10,000 a night for the new year week.

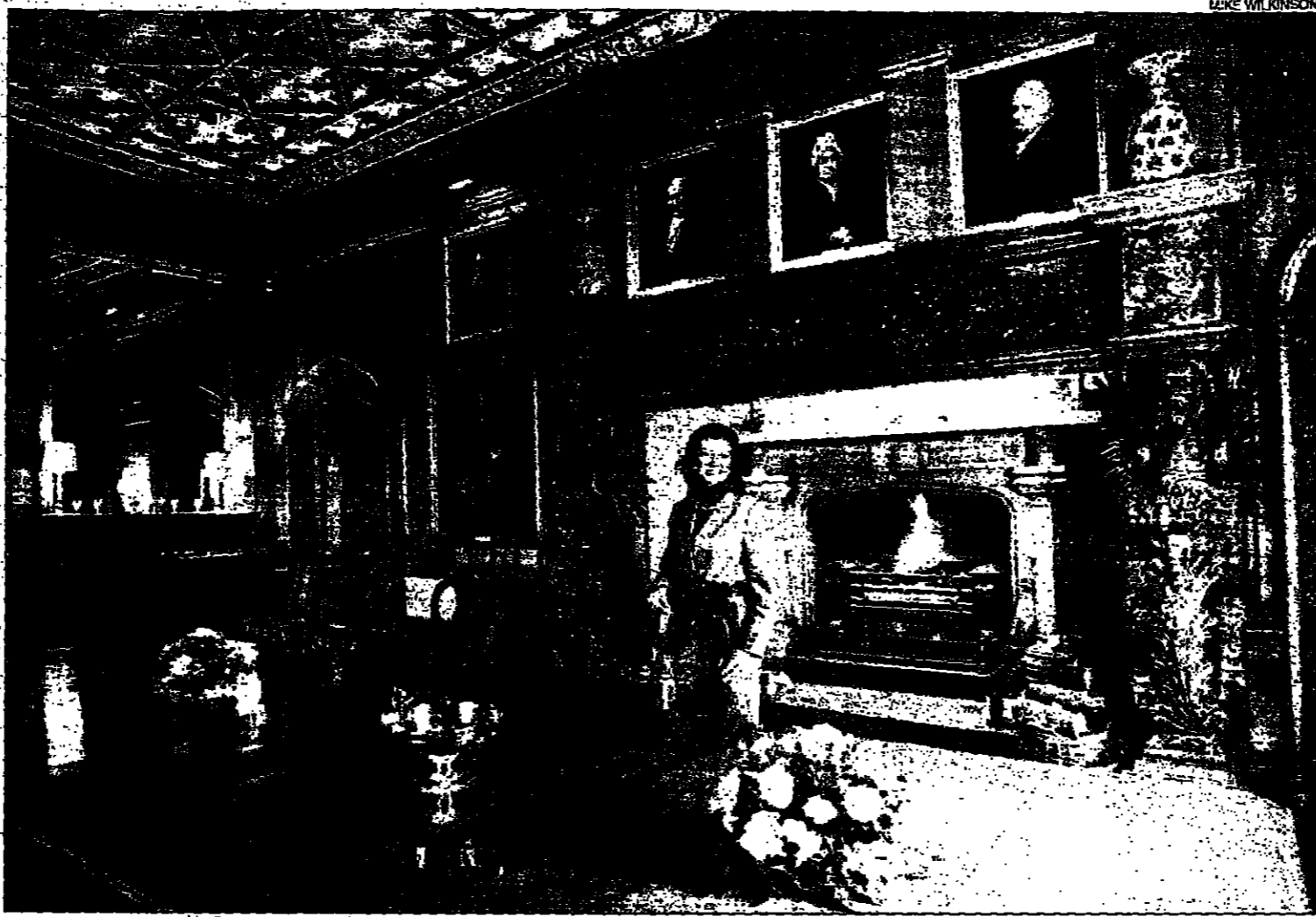
The bad news is that some of the choicest houses have already been booked. John Lamb is a London-based financial consultant who has already bagged the 14-bedroom Duns Castle. He has also hired a number of estate cottages to accommodate more than 50 relatives invited to the celebrations.

Tenants have also booked Kincardine, an imposing country house overlooking Royal Deeside near Aboyne, Aberdeen. The house is known for its expansive dining room and the aptly named "great hall", and is more usually used for one-off corporate functions. But its owners have decided to let over the new year week and are charging rents in the thousands.

Demand comes naturally from those who wish to gather their family and friends together. Mr Lamb says: "I wanted something special, but I needed a castle big enough for all the family. It is a once in a lifetime event." The Lamb family will be holding their own Highland Games in front of the castle and Mr Lamb has asked relatives to learn to play bagpipes by the end of the millennium.

Such rentals pose delicate social dilemmas. Homeowners will be sharing the right with strangers. As Mrs Hay says: "We wouldn't usually let our home out at new year as we usually concentrate on films and fashion shoots."

The 14th-century Duns Castle has been in the Hay family for more than three centuries and has played host to the films *Mrs Brown and Princess*



Dining in style for the millennium: Aline Hay is letting Duns Castle in Berwickshire for £10,000 a night for the new year week

Love. "It was a difficult one for us," says Mrs Hay. "Obviously, this is a night that has to be memorable for every family." But as Mrs Hay says, the funds will enable key repairs to be carried out. The Hay family have met the Lambs to ensure they get on.

The problem for many lettings agents is how to deal with the volume of inquiries and how to set sensible rental levels for a previously unknown phenomenon.

Layla Paterson, from the lettings agents Blandings, which is handling some of Britain's grandest rentals, including Duns Castle, for £55,000 says: "I have had hundreds of inquiries about renting over the millennium. We have just finalised our rates. It is difficult to know what to charge because this has obviously not happened to us before. But I have no doubt that all the properties will find tenants."

The Landmark Trust also reports a record demand, and it is considering a ballot to deal with the number of inquiries. It is not taking bookings yet, nor has it fixed prices, but it expects more requests than it has properties. A spokesman says: "Some

sort of ballot will be needed, but exactly how we will do this has not been decided. Anyone who wants to book with us must have purchased a copy of our handbook, which costs £8.50." This cost is refundable against a booking.

The National Trust will be charging a supplement on millennial bookings, but it has not been fixed. On its books is Doyden Castle, near Lumdy Bay in Port Isaac, Cornwall. Doyden Castle has just one bedroom and bathroom. The Trust describes it as a castellated folly rather than a real castle.

Overlooking a sharp cliff on the north Cornish coast, the property is in danger of being battered by gales, but with a nerve-racking drive up a cliff-edge track to access it, a stay there should always prove exhilarating. Prices have yet to be fixed, but the castle usually rents for £180 to £470 depending on the season.

"Interest in millennial rentals is

escalating," says a spokeswoman for International Chapters, which concentrates on upmarket houses. "There is definitely millennium fever. But none of our homeowners has committed yet, so we are not taking bookings. They are waiting to see what they can charge — or even if they choose to use the house themselves."

She expects prices for millennial rentals "to be anything from a slight increase to double". She adds: "We are seeing the greatest interest in castles. People want plenty of space for large parties."

Her advice to anyone planning for the millennium? "Contact us. We can hold a property until the homeowner makes a firm decision. If you do not get a house, you could always fly over the international date line."

The would-be revellers' desire for larger properties is confirmed by Alastair Scott, from Scott's Castle Holidays. "Interest in millennial renting has gone through the roof

since the start of the year," he says. His company has increased prices five-fold to cash in on demand.

Blandings still has houses to rent. They include Birkhill, a Grade I listed, eight-bedroom mansion set in 2,000 acres on the bank of the Tay estuary near Fife in Scotland, which will cost £30,000 for the week, excluding staff.

Balmund Castle, an eight-bedroom baronial mansion in Perthshire, Scotland, set in 15 acres on the Grampian hills with views over the neighbouring town of Pitlochry, will cost £16,000 for the week, and staff would cost extra. Wester Brevlands, also in Perthshire will cost £10,000. It is a recently renovated Scottish house with seven bedrooms, and large drawing and dining rooms. Harton Castle, an eight-bedroom, eight-bathroom estate set in 1,000 acres of woodland near Turriff in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, will cost £55,000, excluding staff.

National Trust 01225 791 199 (accommodation); International Chapters 0171-722 0722; Blandings 01225 393444; Landmark Trust 01628 825025; Scott's Castle Holidays 0131-446 0717.

Agents have found the greatest interest is in castles

# A house with stories to tell

Ruth Rendell has moved from the home that inspired many crimes

Suffolk no longer holds as much charm for Baroness Rendell of Babergh — the crime writer Ruth Rendell. She has returned to London 14 years after retreating to the depths of the Suffolk countryside to write in peace. Like many other elderly country-dwellers, she found that the garden had become too much work.

Lady Rendell, 67, the author of the Inspector Wexford novels, left Nussteds, the delightful, pink-secluded 16th-century timber-framed home buried in woods and gardens near Polstead, for Regent's Canal at Little Venice in northwest London.

The author, who also writes under the name Barbara Vine, was made a working peer by Tony Blair last summer, and decided with her husband, Donald, that they could no longer cope with the size of the Grade II listed house and its extensive grounds. It has been bought for close to the £500,000 asking price by an anonymous buyer.

"It was all getting too much for us. It's a big house with 12 acres and we never had enough people to help us. I was sick and tired of doing that garden. It's nice to come back," she says.

In the past, Lady Rendell had praised Nussteds because it was so isolated that no one could find it.

She used the views and the grounds as inspiration in novels but did not leave enough clues for readers to identify it.

Both she and her husband are natives of London and she says she envisages no difficulty in writing in the bustling metropolis. "I have written books all over London. In Chelsea, Kensington, Leytonstone and Crickeatwood, I think I can manage to do the same in Maida Vale."

The decision to return to London was also influenced by her dislike of commuting from Suffolk. With her job in the Lords she has developed a new routine.

"I wouldn't have accepted the job if I couldn't write my books. I always write in the mornings and the House sits in the afternoons. It takes up quite a lot of time but I am enjoying it. There is a lot to learn, not least of all the geography of the place. I learn something new every day. I am quite proud of myself."

Lady Rendell hopes, however, to enjoy regular visits to Suffolk. "My husband has bought a little cottage close to where we lived and is having it done up. I dare say he'll allow me to stay sometimes."

DAMIAN WHITWORTH



Nussteds: Ruth Rendell has sold her Suffolk home

Sue Herdman assesses the arguments over the Right to Roam Bill

# As free as a clipped bird?

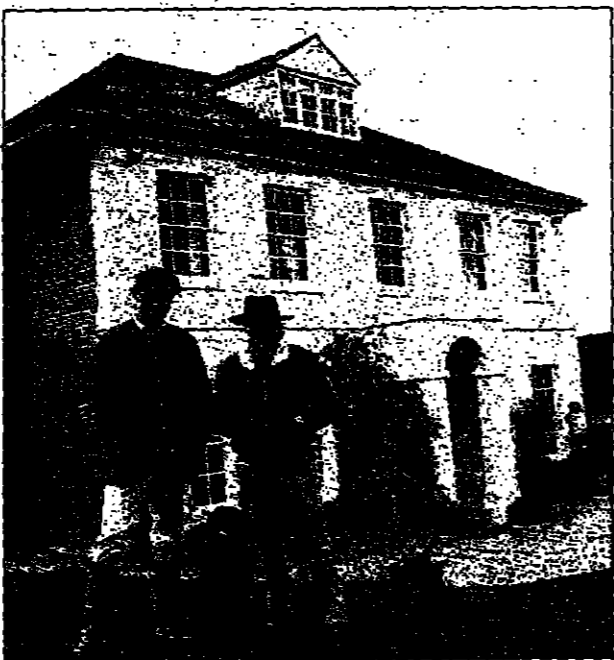
The Government is back-tracking on its plans for a public "right to roam" on Britain's countryside after fierce lobbying by landlords. *The Times* revealed last week. But it is considering whether greater access can be achieved through voluntary agreement rather than legislation.

While the people of Sweden and Norway have the freedom to roam where they will, Britons have long had that right curtailed by exclusive property rights.

The Government's Right to Roam Bill is in the consultation stage. Prepared by Michael Meacher, a minister of state for countryside, water, health and safety, and inspired by John Smith, the late Labour leader who believed passionately in the people's right to enjoy the countryside, it awaits approval.

"There is nothing more important than ensuring that everyone, of all classes and incomes, can get out into the fresh air in the open country without hindrance," said Chris Smith in September 1994 when, as shadow secretary for environmental protection, he introduced Labour's pledge of a right to roam law. "We shouldn't," he added, "be at the beck and call of wealthy landowners like the Duke of Westminster."

While The Ramblers' Association and other access groups applaud the proposals, the landowners — who are represented by bodies such as the Country Landowners Association — are concerned that this may be the start of a wider-ranging policy for yet more uncontrolled access to their land. The right to roam, they say, may just be the thin end of the wedge.



No problems: landowner James Laing and his wife Jane

of the home. "People like to think that they have exclusive use of their land. Lose that and it will lower the value of your property."

The Government's climb-down follows leaked draft proposals which revealed that people would have the right to walk across all mountains, moors, heath, downs and restricted common land. This right would not be negotiable. But any additional costs incurred by the landowners in making their land safe, for which there should be possible council grants, putting in car parks and

stiles) could be offset by those using the facilities paying to do so. This may not be enough to appease landowners, who have said that if the proposals become law they would expect compensation of up to £2 billion. It is understood that there will now be several concessions to landowners. Their liability to ramblers on their land will remain the same as that currently attributed to ramblers. Walkers will be

primarily responsible for their own safety. And private owners of land will be able to suspend temporarily access rights on occasions.

One such landowner is James Laing, head of the rural division of estate agents Strutt & Parker. "Eight years ago," he says, "I bought a property in Berkshire knowing that there were two rights of way and a bridle path across it."

Mr Laing can clearly see both sides of the right to roam debate but claims that his own experiences have been rewarding. "I haven't had any problems," he says. "The walkers and riders have been unfailingly courteous, although I certainly wouldn't relish the thought of 20 people peering in while we eat Sunday lunch."

In his experience the pros are security — "having people around makes an isolated property seem less so"; the fact that planning authorities "tend to look favourably on those landowners who welcome public access"; (a point in your favour if you want to convert that barn); the genera-

tion of income (a farm shop is a welcome sight to hungry ramblers); and lastly, it is "good local PR".

But he is realistic about the down side. "Security can be a negative point as well as positive — that 'walker' could also be a potential burglar," he says. And the same can apply to planning "as it is not possible to build across a right of way, so you can be restricted with what you want to build on your land".

Mr Laing also cites "new morals" as another down side. "People not familiar with life in the country may well take offence to chicken sheds or indoor pig farms. And they may be vociferous in their disapproval."

Lastly, he admits: "There is no doubt that public access across land devalues it — one of the main reasons people want to live in the country is privacy — remove that and the price drops."

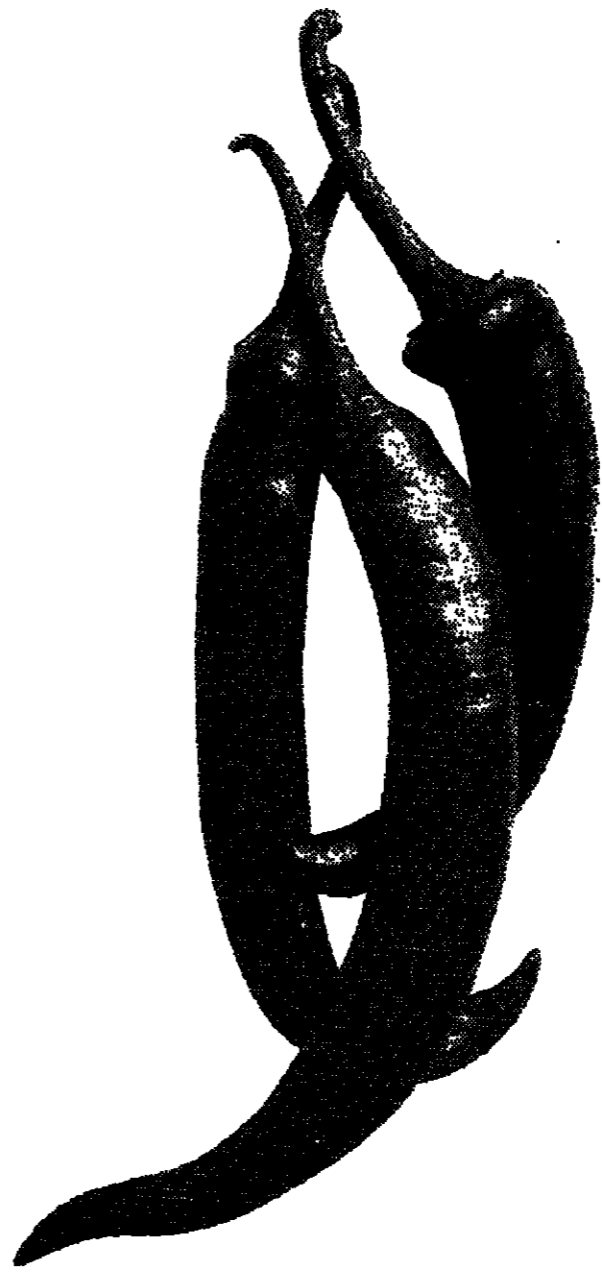
David Beskin, a director of The Ramblers' Association and head of its access campaign, does not agree. "There will be no diminution of prices," he says. "Access will, after all, be limited to protect landowners' legitimate interests. There will also be by-laws and prohibitions. Damaging old stone walls or harming livestock is a criminal offence and will result in immediate loss of access."

He is also quick to say that ramblers are not just asserting a point of principle with their support of the bill. "The CLA," he says "is long on rhetoric. It claims we want unrestricted rights to trample over people's back gardens and that we'll be letting our children play in the same fields as combine harvesters. But our members respect and understand the countryside."

Ramblers may also be subject to restrictions. Along with having to pay for use of access facilities, it is thought that they may also be denied unlimited access to woodland.

However, until Mr Blair decides on whether access is best achieved through voluntary agreement rather than legislation, and the final consultation paper is published next month, much of this is still supposition.

# A cure for bronchitis.



In the world of complementary medicine, chillies are the hot new treatment for bronchitis.

Find out more in *Healing*, the first of six free guides to complementary medicine.

Only in *The Times*, this Saturday.











CRICKET

Fraser striving for reversal of fortune

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PORT OF SPAIN

ANGUS FRASER has played two epic Test matches here. England ought to have won both, but somehow won neither. Yesterday, after reflecting on the anguish of those memories and the confusion of the past week, Fraser took a look at the pitch prepared for his third Test on the ground and his hopes of an overdue victory can only have risen.

certainly start with sufficient grass, and probably sufficient moisture, to encourage the seam bowlers. Unless the eyes deceive, it will be very different from Sabina Park and its terrifying extremes of bounce. It may, indeed, be more likely to suit the English type of bowler like Fraser, who was permitted a cursory inspection before being shooed away by an agitated groundsman.

This opinion was forcibly supported by Andrew Caddick, who was unimpressed by West Indian claims that the game might have continued if they had been batting. "They would have been in just as much trouble as we were," Caddick said. "I can bowl as quick as them and get as much bounce — and that was like bowling on a corrugated roof."



Mark Waugh, the batsman, stands his ground as, from left, Pollock, Symcox and Cronje argue for his dismissal before Randell, the umpire

Getting looking for prolonged innings

FROM SIMON WILDE IN KURUNEGALA

TEN days ago, the England A team were all for cutting short their stay in Sri Lanka. How swiftly moods change on tour. Last night they felt relaxed enough to break their long journey to the south coast in Colombo, a place that they had not planned to visit again.

their lighter mood onto the pitch if they are not to descend into stalemate. Mike Gatting, the coach, made no secret of the fact that he had wanted the three unofficial Tests played over five days. The Sri Lankans' insistence that they should be four-day affairs created a dilemma: should England play to win or to bring on players whom they want to cultivate for five-day Tests?

The performance of England's three seamers will be crucial and Fraser has a particular role. His duties include unofficial team leader status among the quicker bowlers and he has been taking his responsibilities seriously. "I speak to them all, show an interest. We are a breed apart, speaking a different language from the other guys, and just having someone to listen can be a help."

South Africa held by act of Waugh

FROM PAT GIBSON IN ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE (final day of first Australia drew with South Africa

South Africa were seething last night after one of the most controversial, not to say contentious, umpiring decisions in recent memory had helped Mark Waugh to save Australia from defeat in the third and final Test and give them their ninth successive victory in a Test series.

Waugh swished his bat at the stumps and knocked off a ball, whereupon the South Africans redoubled their appeals, this time for hit wicket.

To their consternation, Steve Randell, the Australian umpire standing at square leg, called for a television replay, a questionable action in itself since the facility is only supposed to be used for line decisions, and play was held up for five minutes while Steve Davis, the third umpire, studied the evidence before giving Waugh not out.

That led to more prolonged argument, mainly involving Randell and Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, Waugh, who had shown no intention of leaving the crease, and Symcox. Finally, Randell consulted his fellow umpire, Doug Cowie, of New Zealand, and told South Africa to get on with the game.

actually playing a shot or attempting a run after the shot," he said. Taylor added: "I know Hansie and the South Africans will be very disappointed but I'd be surprised if this damages relations between the two teams. They have been and still are very good."

There were only nine overs remaining when Shaun Pollock, who had already taken nine wickets in the match with an heroic bowling performance, was called up for one last attempt to dislodge Waugh, who had made 107 of Australia's 213 for six.

Pollock, summoning up astonishing reserves of energy for a man who had bowled more than 60 overs in temperatures that at times touched 110F, let fly with a short ball that hit Waugh on the forearm as he took evasive action and lobbed to Symcox in the gully.

As Symcox appealed frenziedly for a catch, which was rightly turned down, a disorientated

SCOREBOARD FROM ADELAIDE

Table with columns for South Africa and Australia, showing runs, wickets, and batsmen/bowlers. Includes details like 'SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 517 (6 M. Waugh 87 not out, G. Kirsten 77, W. J. Cronje 73, A. M. da Silva 64, P. L. Symcox 54, Second innings 153 for 6 (C. Kallis 108 not out)'.

What made it even harder to take was that they knew they should have ended Australia's winning streak, despite the fact that they were able to take only three wickets in the first session yesterday. Steve Waugh's in the second and those of Ponting, Healy and Dicks in the last.

TODAY'S FIXTURES. FOOTBALL: FA Cup Fourth-round replays. RUGBY UNION: Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup. BASKETBALL: United Trophy. THE WEEK'S TIMES: SPORTS SERVICE.

SNOW REPORTS. Table with columns: Depth (cm), Piste, Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (Sun, C), Last (C, snow). Locations include Andorra, Austria, France, etc.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE. By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent. Dealer East. Love all. IMPs. Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: three of spades.

KEENE on CHESS. By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent. Diagram of final position. White: Michael Adams. Black: Valery Salov. Sicilian Defence.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES. 0171-782 7344. PUBLIC NOTICES: CHARITY COMMISSION, THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986. LEGAL NOTICES: Francis Under Limited, THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986.

By Philip Howard. GREAT DICKENS FEEDER. MEAGLES. DAISY. DANDO. By Raymond Keene. Black to play. This position is from the game Thorhallsson - Thorhallsson, Iceland 1997.

Barbe. RACING. Advertisement for a bar or restaurant.







FOOTBALL

Gullit may be swayed by faith of Italians

By Russell Kempson

WILL he or won't he? Will Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, sign a new contract or not? Will he commit himself to Stamford Bridge into the next millennium or will he be lured away by one of the apparent multitude of offers from the continent?

days at Stamford Bridge. "Gianfranco has demonstrated very forcibly that he will stay at Chelsea until the end of his career," Colin Hutchinson, the club's managing director, said. "His family have settled and he loves it in London."

Worldly-wise head on young shoulders

Russell Kempson on the Stevenage player displaying a maturity beyond his years

Only a few minutes had gone of Stevenage Borough's FA Cup fourth-round tie against Newcastle United when James Dillnutt, the Stevenage right back, felt the full force of one of John Beresford's more robust challenges.



Dillnutt prepares for the biggest night of his sporting life by catching up with his studies at college in Hitchin

Newcastle and the attention of a nation faze him not a jot

It is also important, he said. "If the football went wrong for me, what would I have to fall back on? Nothing. I'd have wasted two years of my life."

Newcastle, St James' Park, a crowd of about 36,000 and the attention of a nation beckon. It fazes him not a jot.

Ginola holds key to Tottenham's chances

By Our Sports Staff

CHRISTIAN GROSS is relying on David Ginola to lead Tottenham Hotspur into the FA Cup fifth round and away from the threat of relegation.

choice for his national team." Gross said, "but the present situation with France has a long history. It was a surprise when they didn't pick him at first but they have shown they are an excellent team even without him."

to earn a 1-1 draw in the Cup at White Hart Lane 12 days ago, when Ginola made little impact.

after a third operation on his troublesome right ankle. Either Colin Calderwood or David Howells will replace Andy Sinton, who has damaged a knee ligament.

"They are a massive, fantastic club who are languishing at the wrong end of the table. And, in Ginola, they have someone who is having a purple patch at the moment."



Di Matteo: long contract

Di Matteo, long contract. Dario Gradi, the Crewe Alexandra manager, has won the Nationwide League first division manager-of-the-month award for January.

SQUASH

Parke's life much improved scoring the American way

By Colin McQuillan

SIMON PARKE'S domination of the national championship, which culminated late on Monday evening with victory over Mark Chaloner, may prove to be more important than marking another high point in a resurgent career.

hours of fantastically high-paced squash against Paul Johnson in my semi-final. It was one of the hardest matches of my life. At last I have got the British title. In professional and commercial terms, and not least competitively, it means so much."

SNOOKER

Hamilton quick to pounce as Higgins hits low point

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS, who has experienced wildly contrasting fortunes throughout the season, once again unexpectedly slipped up on an important occasion when he lost 6-3 to Anthony Hamilton in the last 16 of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre.

past two years, said. "I collapsed but apart from blaming it on concentration I can't understand why. This is another low for me."

BOXING

Honeyghan returns as promoter

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

LLOYD HONEYGHAN returns to the ring next month as a promoter. The former world welterweight champion, granted a licence by the British Boxing Board of Control last month, makes his debut at the National Sporting Club (NSC), Cafe Royal, London, on March 26.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Happy Becker quickly shrugs off ring rust

■ TENNIS: Boris Becker, who has not played since November, comfortably won his first match in the Croatian Indoors tournament in Split yesterday. Becker, 30, beat Fredrik Bergh, of Sweden, 6-3, 7-6. Becker, the world No 65, will play Goran Ivanisevic, the title-holder, in the next round in what is expected to be the most compelling match of the tournament.

Edwards eyes record

■ ATHLETICS: Jonathan Edwards is hoping to set a British indoor triple jump record tonight in Tampere. Edwards, who recorded a personal best of 17.26m in his first competition of the season last month, is intent on beating Keith Comnor's mark of 17.31m, set in 1991.

Chinese whispers

■ MOTOR RACING: China is certain to become part of the Formula One circuit by 1999, Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One ringmaster, has said that the Chinese city of Zhuhai, which borders the Portuguese enclave of Macau, will host a race next year.

Women serve notice

■ TENNIS: Women will take part in the Grand Slam Cup in Munich for the first time this autumn. The eight best performers in the grand-slam events this year will take part in the women's event from September 29 to October 4, with €500,000 at stake for the winner.

Fixture wastage

■ FOOTBALL: Ten Bundesliga matches have been postponed to allow the German authorities to transport nuclear waste across the country between March 20 and April 26. Police say that they will be too busy protecting the waste from demonstrators to have officers spare for football.

FREE £10 BET advertisement for William Hill. Includes text: 'FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards. RING TODAY 0800 44 40 40'.

TONIGHT'S 'LIVE' F.A. CUP ACTION advertisement. Includes text: '1/8 NEWCASTLE 11/2 DRAW STEVENAGE 12/1'. Lists correct scores, double results, and first goal scorers.

Advertisement for a book or publication. Includes text: 'I have a lot of friends in boxing who will help me.' and 'Mike Tyson is a good friend and I am going to try to get him to come to this show.'

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'RUGBY UNION', 'Armstrong revital', 'reinforce the pitch', 'England', and 'WORLD WATERS'.



RUGBY UNION: SCRUM HALF TAKES OVER FROM WAINWRIGHT

Armstrong given task of revitalising Scotland

SCOTLAND will be led for the first time by Gary Armstrong, the Newcastle scrum half, when they meet Ireland in the opening round of the Five Nations Championship at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

Two players not selected for the 23-man squad named by Richie Dixon, then the national coach, before he was asked to resign last week, are now included. Kenny Logan, the Wasps wing, returns while Derrick Lee, the London Scottish full back, will be on the replacements' bench.

There are three changes of personnel to the side that was originally selected against Italy. Logan replaces Tony Stanger, Damian Cronin is brought in at lock for Scott Murray and Peter Walton displaces Adam Roxburgh at No 8. Roxburgh and Stanger are relegated to replacements.

George Graham, who was chosen to face Italy, but who withdrew because of injury, returns. David Hilton switches to the replacements' bench and Peter Wright, like Scott Murray, moves down to the Scotland A squad. A positional switch sees Craig Chalmers preferred at fly half to Gregor Townsend.

SCOTLAND TEAM table listing players like R Shephard, A Tait, C Chalmers, M Stewart, R Wainwright, S Hilton, T Stanger, A Nicol, D Hilton.

Reinforcements arrive for the pitch battle in Paris

THE French rugby federation issued an assurance yesterday that the Five Nations Championship match between France and England on Saturday would go ahead, at much the same time as a trio of English ground experts was heading for the frozen Stade de France.



that has kept Franklin's Gardens well protected against frost. Whether the system can extend the amount of frost already in the ground remains to be seen, but no decision will be made until Friday.

Christophe Lamaison and Olivier Magne are expected to be named at centre and flanker respectively, though he kicked five penalty goals. Lamaison missed a kick that would have won the game against Bath and Pierre Villepreux, the France assistant coach, suggested that his mental state might affect his selection.

Irish received a boost yesterday with the news that Paul Wallace, the tight-head prop, has been cleared to play against Scotland. Wallace sustained a neck injury playing for Saracens against Richmond in the Premiership last weekend.

Armstrong: new captain. Jim Telfer, beginning his third spell as national coach, admitted to reservations about the task ahead.



Whelan faces the press after the announcement on his sponsorship deal with the Super League yesterday

Whelan goes top of the League

Like Jack Walker at Blackburn, David Whelan is a sporting philanthropist busily transforming the landscape of his beloved home town, in his case Wigan.

After jumping ship from the Rugby Football League, where he was chief executive, to become managing director of SLE three weeks ago, Maurice Lindsay was immediately on the telephone to Whelan, a former club president when Lindsay was on the Wigan board in the Eighties.

Whelan is a canny operator who knows his sport. Tennis, squash, even the British open brass band championships, have felt the warmth of his benefaction.

immense steps clubs have taken to improve their positions, all mean that this sport is poised to take off.

My basic allegiance is to sport generally

Christopher Irvine meets the man whose vision has moved beyond simply making Wigan peerless

Anyone who can transform a single shop in Wigan into the country's biggest independent sports goods retailer clearly knows a thing or two about the business of sport.

Whelan, 60, was behind the rescue from collapse last October of Wigan's rugby league club and the resur-

gence that culminated yesterday in the £500,000 signing from Australia of Wendell Sailor, a sporting legend.

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Why England call was resisted

Kiwi or not Kiwi, that was the question facing Shane Howarth in December when England open their Five Nations Championship campaign in Paris on Saturday with Paul Grayson happily ensconced at fly half after coming of age against New Zealand at Twickenham.

Howarth, the former All Blacks working for New Zealand television and he felt the jump from one camp to another at such short notice would have been impossible to come to terms with.

Having initially said yes to Utley, Howarth went home, spoke to his wife, took soundings from John Hart, then called Utley back three hours later to say thanks, but no thanks.

Howarth said yesterday: "Roger was very good to it and fully understood. I spent most of the night before with the Blacks and to line up against them three days later just didn't sit well at all. But it was a huge decision as gold about it."

LOOSE TALK

to turn down an international call-up. As on the trip was Pete Burge, who has worn the same shirt to the nine cup finals and he's never washed it either.

Late brigade

Sporting Index, the specialist spread betting firm, believes England will score between 125 and 130 points in this year's Five Nations Championship, with Paul Grayson contributing between 49 and 53.

Lucky shirt

Bordeaux updated! Bath do have some devoted fans, among them one Kevin Ford. Kevin had gone to his local pub, the Northey Arms in Box, on Thursday night to see his friends off to Bordeaux for the Heineken Cup final.

Wise words

Phil Larder, the former Great Britain rugby league coach and now the RFU's new coaching adviser, was asked this week whether he would rather watch England against New Zealand at Twickenham or Great Britain versus Australia at Wembley.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, CRICKET, CYCLING, FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, SQUASH, SNookER, SAILING, and other sports records.

SAILING

Edwards away to brisk start. THE clock has started ticking for Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew aboard the 92ft catamaran Royal & Sun Alliance.



# Reality wrecks sporting life

### The outside world will always be an unwelcome visitor to the dream-filled arena of athletic endeavour

Which of us has not felt that life's cares were eased a little on hearing the news that Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding were to have a rematch? It takes place tomorrow and it is American television's idea of the perfect warm-up before the Winter Olympic Games, which begin at the weekend.

Ah, Nancy, the great slithering, sliding Barbie doll, rich with inedible wholesomeness: that monument to the great American industry of orthodontistry. Ah, Tonya, white trash, all-American bad girl from the wrong side of the tracks. The tale of two skaters was soap opera incarnate.

Perhaps you have forgotten that Nancy was wheeled on the knee with an iron bar and that Tonya, implicated in the assault, was eventually convicted of obstructing the course of justice. It might have been a rather disturbing story, but the blow was not a serious one: Nancy skated on, Tonya was later banned from competition and all was reduced to farce.

"I may be a little rough around the edges, but overall, I think I'm a good person," Tonya said. At the last Winter Olympics, four years ago, Tonya had a broken face and many tears and finished eighth, and the good girl — well, she spoils everything by

coming a sulky second to the delightful Oksana Baiul, of Ukraine. But who remembers that?

It was American Grand Oprah at its best: America setting itself up for the rest of the world to laugh at. And, of course, it was a chance for us all to wonder at the madness of it all, to marvel at the problems that always follow when sport and real life get in each other's way.

In this country, we had another graphic demonstration of this confusion with Edward Martin, the poor linesman who was knocked unconscious at the Portsmouth v Sheffield United match last weekend. And it is a disturbing thing for us all.

In fact, I was reminded of one of the most disturbing stories of the past sporting decade: one that involved another pair of divas locked in apparently eternal rivalry. It had looked as if Steffi Graf had had her day, that she was about to be destroyed by the power and aggression of Monica Seles.

That Gunther Parche should be in love with the

## SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

long-stemmed Steffi is at least understandable, but what followed was beyond comprehension. He stabbed Seles, in order that his Steffi might be queen again. That he succeeded 100 per cent in his aim is perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the tale. Seles was stabbed in April 1993, and for the next four years, Graf's global dominance was unquestioned. It was Seles that was destroyed. You occasionally hear stories

of actors from soap operas getting thumped in pubs for the bad behaviour of their on-screen character, but sport is neither quite fiction nor quite real life. No sane person can believe that sport is serious, but all of sport's pleasure stems from our willing suspension of this disbelief.

Sport has some of the same paradox as dreams. Dreams are real and important and we cannot live without them, yet we know, also, that they are unreal and unimportant. Who has not lain in bed trembling at the guilt of murder, only to reach full wakefulness and find full innocence?

Sleep deprivation is a shortcut to madness. When we are very tired, we snap into dream-life at the closing of an eye. It is as if dreams are claiming us from our waking life: a horrible, quite literally nightmarish experience. I knew a person once who, in his deep distress, decided that sleep was no longer bearable. His horrific breakdown was inevitable. Dreams and nightmares claimed him for their own. In his waking state, dreams and objective reality were inextricable. It

was a disturbing incident: a deeply disturbed man.

Perhaps sport fulfils the same function as dreams in our lives — a perfectly safe arena for wild and perfectly genuine passions. Like dreams, sport incorporates an acceptable relish of violence, moments of supreme power and every kind of ecstasy and anguish and ritual humiliation and triumph. Enthusiasts of Freud can continue this as they wish: I suggest the notions of "scoring" and "scoring" are a fruitful field for speculation.

And throughout it all, the spectator, like the dreamer, leads a charmed life. His passions harm neither himself nor any one else. It is not he that crashes the car, falls from the horse, has his ear bitten. We shout and gasp at televisions and at live events, moved to anger and to delight, but we turn back to life and the real passions are gone, leaving not a wrack behind.

That, at any rate, is the sane and healthy way to enjoy sport. A cheap but essential paradox: sport matters to us, because we know that it doesn't matter. But when the dream-life of sport becomes a real and inescapable aspect of waking life, then the state turns. That way madness lies.

# Spats among the expats

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Policeman Conrad Glass (BBC2, 9.00pm)

the officer's lot is no easier. Take PC Peter Timley. His beat includes an estate where seven-year-olds steal cars. Neighbourhood Watch is forced to operate in secret for fear of reprisals and there is little respect for the police. PC Timley is at the centre of an initiative called Operation Cruiser, an attempt to deal with the causes of crime and not just the symptoms. The approach bristles with good intentions but critics accuse the police of trying to be social workers and question whether the policy is effective.

### Prostitute BBC1, 10.45pm

The subject of Esther Rantzen's latest interview is Tracie, who, even if she had not been a prostitute, could boast a more than usually eventful life. The key to it is that she was born a man but soon discovered that she was trapped in the wrong body. She would creep out in the middle of the night and secretly dress up in her sister's clothes. Two failed marriages, three children and four prison sentences punctuated her early life, until she turned to prostitution to pay for her sex change. Just why men were prepared to pay for the services of a transsexual is something not even Tracie can really explain but she says that she has had surgery (four years ago at the age of 37) clients have been difficult to find. Not that she is bothered. Prostitution was only a means to an end and now there is less need for it. Peter Waymark

# Westwood still best of friends

### John Hopkins on a rising star at home with golf's elite or in his local clubhouse



Westwood remains relaxed in the familiar surroundings of Worktop Golf Club despite his new-found status

FOR Lee Westwood, dealing with the success that is being hurled at him from every direction is as easy as holding a short, uphill putt. At Worktop Golf Club on Monday afternoon, the finest English golfer to emerge since Nick Faldo, and one of the half-dozen best players under 30 in the world, sat in a corner of the dining-room playing mother. He poured out a cup of tea he had bought for a visitor. "Oh, you wanted coffee? Sorry."

An elderly member walked to a corner table for a late lunch. "Hello Rustus," he said as he passed. "Why Rustus?" Westwood was asked. "Dunno," Westwood replied, smiling. "I've been called worse."

Westwood's career in golf has been smooth and meteoric, much like the ride in the grey Mercedes 500SL he has just bought himself, a car so new it still has its German numberplates. Five years ago

he was an amateur: last year he was one of only 15 players in the world, and only three from Europe, who played all four rounds in the four major championships. In 1997 he finished third on the PGA European Tour money-list.

On Friday, Westwood leaves for Melbourne to prepare for the Australian Masters next week, the second event of a season in which he is determined to improve from his world ranking of No 21. Then the Englishman, 24, flies on to Kuala Lumpur to defend the Malaysian Open. But for now, there is still time to be with his friends at the golf club, accepting their ribbing as easily as he does their congratulations, while talking about himself. And, in doing this, he reveals that one of the ways in which he is a singular man is in the natural yet unexpected manner in which he constantly refers to his small but tight-knit family.

Three of his four grandparents died of cancer. "Grandad used to say to me 'work hard, play hard and keep your boots clean.' That was when I played football. He took up golf after my dad and I did and he had a hole in one before he died. My nan taught me old-time dancing. I think they thought it would help my balance." The mention of his nan, as he called her, prompted a worried look on his boyish face. "It's her birthday tomorrow and I haven't got her a present yet."

Westwood once said his dream four-ball would be his father, Ben Hogan and Jack Nicklaus. "Why your father?" Westwood was asked. "Because he's my dad," Westwood said. "Dad never let me win anything, whether it was golf, arm-wrestling or cards. He was very competitive and that's where I get it from I suppose."

"Mum's great. I get on well with her," Westwood continued. "She worked hard as a chiropodist. She sometimes left the house at quarter to eight and didn't return until 6.30 or 7 o'clock. I've got pretty good feet for a golfer. She started golf about four or five years after us. She had a net 62, ten under par, yesterday." He gestured expansively around. "This is home. That's why I like it. Nothing replaces home, does it? If the only handicap of living here is having to drive an extra 1½ hours from an airport on a Sunday night and getting up at 5.30 instead of 6.30 on a Tuesday morning, then that's not much of a hardship. All

my friends are here. I am still the same as I was. The only difference now is that I turn up in a Merc instead of a Ford Fiesta."

He pointed out over the course that was bathed in a steady sunshine. "I used to find the 9th and the 12th holes really hard. See that par-three, the 3rd? That's where I had my first hole in one. I used a driver. The 9th was a drive and a three-wood it was so long. Now it's a drive and a sand-iron."

It does not take long to realise that there are some uncanny similarities between Westwood and Faldo. Both are only children who were inspired to start golf by watching Nicklaus competing in the Masters on television. Faldo in 1971, Westwood in 1986. Both have talkative, bubbly mothers and strong fathers. Both were successful amateurs, turned pro around the time of their 19th birthdays and moved successfully into the professional ranks.

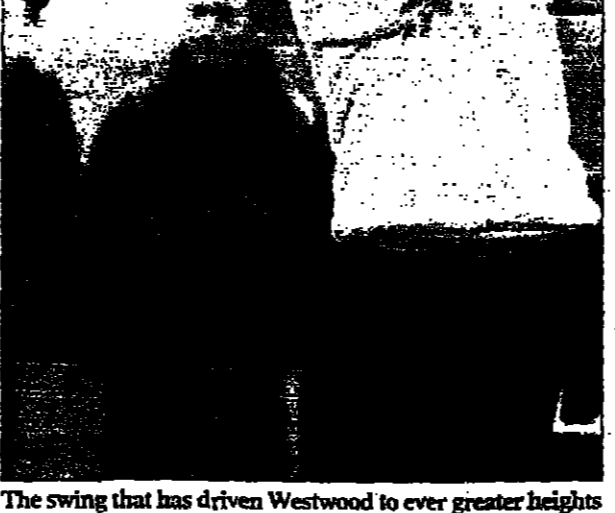
Westwood was third reserve for England in the Home Internationals in September 1993 and one week later finished second in a regional

qualifying competition for the Tour school before coming fifth there. Then he played all four rounds in his first 12 events as a professional.

Faldo was an outstanding swimmer, so was Westwood. Of whom did a former master write. "I don't know what he is going to do when he grows up but I am sure he will do it well." That was Faldo, but it could have applied to Westwood. Who said, "me, hitting balls does not seem like hard work at all?" It was Westwood, but it could have been Faldo when he was 24.

And then the two of them were paired together in the Ryder Cup last September, winning two points. Westwood, so easy-going, could have played with anyone; Faldo asked to partner his young compatriot and said at the end: "Leave him alone, he's doing all right."

Indeed, Westwood is doing all right. And he knows and likes it. "It has changed in the past two years and it's in the betting I notice it most. It's Woods, Els and now Westwood and, at longer odds, Faldo. I think to myself 'bloody hell, I must be a pretty good player now.'"



The swing that has driven Westwood to ever greater heights

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TONIGHT  
7.45 ITV  
THE  
SHOOTING  
STARTS  
THE  
NEW  
NESCAFÉ  
GOLD  
BLEND  
SERIES

**RADIO 1**  
6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Evans. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 5.50 Steve Lamacq. The Evening Session 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kennedy 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Clive Weller

**RADIO 2**  
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Trovati 3.00 Ed Stewart 6.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Newsbeat 8.30 Ed Stewart 9.00 McEl 10.00 Tom Meagher 8.30 The Cruise Sea (5p) 10.00 The Steve Wright Picture Show. A new series 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Fuzscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Workler 7.00 News Extra 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of the FA Cup fourth-round replays 10.00 Live! 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Radio 1. Includes 1.00am Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 (FM) Paul O'Connell (AM) Calm Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

**TALK RADIO**  
6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Louise Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anne Beakum 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins 3.00 The Early Show with Bill Overton

**RADIO 3**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Bach (Violin Sonata No 2 in A); Weber (Overture Oberon); John Field, son (Waltz Wiener); Liszt (Overture Stravinsky (Scherzo Fantastique); Berlioz (Overture Roman Carnival); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini)  
9.00 Westwood, with Peter Hobday, Fimsky, Korsakov (Capriccio Espagnol); Haydn (String Quartet in D, Lark); Tard, an Britten (The Sally Gardens); The Ash Grove); Vaughan-Williams (Symphony No 7, Grieg's Antiphonal)  
10.30 Artist of the Week: Clarissa Ludvig  
11.00 Sound Stories: Exploring the legend of Orpheus. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Lalo Schifano (Celebrating the Century). Live from the Adlon Bouli Hall, Birmingham. The Undiscovered Tapes (String Quartet No 6). Shostakovich (String Quartet No 8)  
2.00 The Choice, with Susan Sharpe  
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from Norwich Cathedral. Organist and master of music David Dunnett.  
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty presents a new production of Mozart's Così fan tutte, set in the 1970s, and performed by the Scottish Opera. He talks to the vocal director Stewart Laing about Mozart and the Bee Gees  
7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the City Hall, Glasgow. Romeo and Juliet, directed by Leslie Lippus, bassoon, Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Charles Mackerras. Strauss (Wind Sonata No 1, From an Invalid's Workshop) 8.05 is Strauss

**RADIO 4**  
5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 10.55 Midweek, with the Times columnist Libby Purves and guests  
10.00 (FM) News: A Good Read. Thomas Sutcliffe talks to Susannah Clapp and John Lanchester about their favourite paperback.  
10.00 (LW) News: Daily Service  
10.16 (LW) On These Days. It is 50 years since the publication of the Knesey Report. Throughout this week, Sue Limb looks at the history of sex surveys  
10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Janet Murray  
11.30 Gardener's Question Time. Nigel Colborn, John Cushnie and Bob Flowerdew answer questions posted by the staff and readers of the Evening Star newspaper in Ipswich (1)  
12.00 News: 12.00 News, with Mark Wraith  
12.25pm Visiting Julie. See Choice 12.55  
1.00 World at One, with Nick Clarke  
1.40 The Archers (1) 1.58 Shipping Forecast  
2.00 Women's Hour, introduced by Janet Murray  
2.00 News: Who Slings the Hercz Head Row to Portland, by Eric Fingleton. The true story of the Lynmouth boat crew, who in 1839 carried their boat five miles over land to help a stricken ship. McDermott  
2.50 Str of the Best. English teacher Chris Nicholson from Bedford Modern School explores a Semus Hamsy poem with his class of 11 and 12-year-old boys (2)  
3.00 News: The Afternoon Show, introduced by Dale

**World Service**  
6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Of the Show: Looking with intent 7.30 Mandarin Live 8.00 News 8.10 Pacific 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.50 Everywoman 9.00 News; News in German (848 only) 9.00 World Business Report 9.15 The Farming Week 9.30 Britain Now 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 News 10.35 Newsday 11.30 Sports International 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seating Stars 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.25 Outlook 2.30 Magazine 2.50 News; News in German (848 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Performance 3.30 Everywoman 4.00 News 4.15 From Our Own Correspondents 4.30 The World Today; News in German (848 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 World Business Report 6.30 The World; News in German (848 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitask X-Press 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 On Screen 10.30 News 10.35 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitask X-Press 12.00 Newsday 12.20am From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Outlook 1.50 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Sports Roundup 2.30 News 2.50 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Private View 3.45 The Learning World 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

**CLASSIC FM**  
6.00am Breakfast with Sally 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes a recipe for Apples and Rhubarb and Record of the Week features the best of the new releases 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces 'Bananas' favourite pieces of classical music 2.00pm Concerto Classics with Martin Clayton 3.00pm Jamie Crook. Includes Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics 6.30 Newsnight. Presented by John Bunnings 7.00 Sports Classics at Seven with John Bunnings 8.00 Evening Concerto Classics (Sally Quarter in F minor; Tchaikovsky, O Holy One); Bachmanian (Symphony No 2 in E minor) 11.00 More; at Night 11.00am Concerto (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

**RADIO 5**  
a 20th-century Composer? Michael Oliver investigates 6.25 Strauss (Duet-Concerto for clarinet and bassoon); Sully La Bourgeois (Gentilhomme)  
9.40 Postscript: Bedtime Stories. Writers and psychologists explore the history of cross-dressing and transvestites talk about their lives (3)  
10.00 Ensemble. Perry Gore introduces a recital by Michael Collins, clarinet, and Kathryn Stott, piano. Bernstein (Clarinet Sonata); Debussy (Prelude and Fugue); Brahms (Clarinet Quintet)  
10.45 Night Waves. Includes a look at the exhibitions at the Hayward Gallery featuring the work of Francis Bacon and Henri Matisse  
11.30 Composites of the Week: Les Six (1)  
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather begins a birthday celebration for the pianist David Newton  
1.00 Through the Night Archive. From Searles and Radio 3, featuring live broadcasts from RSO, Lahr (Overture Zigeunerlieder), under Franz Lehar; Bach/Stokowski (Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor), under Stokowski; Bach/Western (Ricercar), under Wolfgang Fortner; Debussy (Jeux), under Hans Zender; 2.05 Fortnightly Harpsichord Series. See Choice 2.30 Mercedesech (White Sonata in C minor) performed by Michael Gierler, viola, Lauretta Bloomer, piano 3.00 Schools: Time and Tune 3.30 Together 3.40 Diverse Workshop 4.00 Let's Move Special EAL Edition 4.30 As World Service Resources 4.40 Talking Points 5.00 Sequence

**Brain**  
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gribbenacci joins to Sigourney Weaver about her latest film, The Ice Storm, and reviews a design exhibition derived from park geology  
4.45 Short Story: Metaphysics, by Michael McLaury, read by Mark Mulholland  
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather  
6.00 Sir O'Clock News 6.20 Compendium. Meet five of the general knowledge music quiz (1)  
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers  
7.20 Face the Facts, with John Wells  
7.45 Albert Street. See Choice 8.00  
8.30 A Singing Firework. A celebration of the slayerk in words and music: takes its title from Edgardo Sorell's poem Lark Despairing (1)  
9.00 On Giants' Shoulders. Presented by the Times columnist Melvin Stiles. A look at the life and work of the 18th-century chemist Lavoisier (2/4) (1)  
9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.50 Weather  
10.20 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton  
10.45 Bow at Bedlam. A guarantee, by Jim Grace. Read by Sara Kesteven (6/10)  
11.00 We Know Everything. The comedy sketch show featuring Dan Gheesey and Paul Power  
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament  
11.30 (FM) Today in Parliament  
12.00 News 12.20am The Frank Corner (1)  
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

**FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.5. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 91.2-93.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 195. AM 123. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 583, 599. WORLD SERVICE. MW 548. LW 128. CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.5. MW 1197, 1218. TALK RADIO. MW 1063, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.**



Improved from impossible to implausible

Having loathed the last one... it was with some trepidation that I returned to McCallum (ITV), that most glossy and Gothic of the path-lally genre...

What are you playing at, Sergeant Small? bellowed Detective Inspector Bracken. Small shrugged and looked even more blank than normal...

very little material to work with. Randle cleverly did just enough to let us know that Clare was attractive, manipulative and ever-so-slightly unhinged...

intrusive and, to some extent, exploitative. Unlike some 999 reconstruction, this was real life and, as a caption informed us, did not have a happy ending...



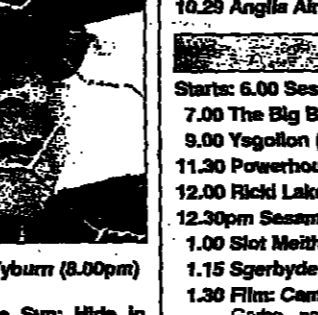
Matthew Bond

Table with TV listings for BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, WESTCOUNTRY, MERIDIAN, ANGLIA, and CHANNEL 5. Includes program titles, times, and descriptions.

REVIEW

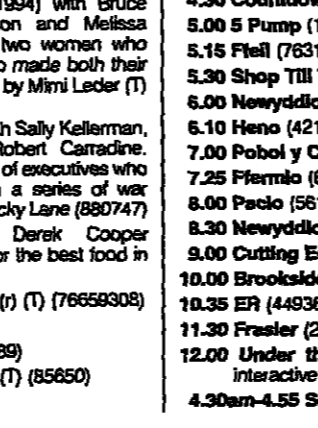
me right, the only reason he didn't sleep with Clare was because he got called away to a sudden death. Small wonder that she sought comfort in the arms of another.

Travis



Travis

Trevor Eve as Supt Tyburn



Trevor Eve as Supt Tyburn (8.00pm)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6126936)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5497471)
6.25-7.00 Central News (760487)
3.40am The Time, The Place (7665867)
4.10 Cybernet (87820560)
4.40 Central Jobfinder '98 (4156259)
5.20 Asian Eye (1039018)

As HTV West except:

- 12.27pm-12.30...
6.00 Meridian Tonight (723)
6.30-7.00 Birdwatch with Chris Packham (425)
5.00am Fresscreen (85650)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55-1.25 Yan Can Cook (6126988)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5497471)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (760487)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (930655)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge...



Presenter Rhona Mitra (8.00pm)

Table with satellite and cable listings for SKY, EUROSPORT, CARLTON SELECT, FOX KIDS NETWORK, CHALLENGE TV, DISNEY CHANNEL, and others. Includes program titles and times.





**CRICKET 38**  
Battered Waugh saves the day for Australia

# SPORT

**GOLF 42**

Westwood heads east to continue meteoric rise

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 1998

Newcastle determined to end Cup saga

## Dalglish ready to pull rank on Stevenage

By Russell Kempson

KENNY DALGLISH, the Newcastle United manager, chooses his words carefully at the best of times. Yesterday, in the final run-up to the FA Cup fourth-round replay against Stevenage Borough at St James' Park tonight, he was more selective than ever. It was not the time for careless banter.

Yet while his phraseology was clipped, leaving no room for mischievous misinterpretation, the underlying mood was clear — from him and his players. Newcastle, of the FA Carling Premiership, will not fall to Stevenage, of the Vauxhall Conference. Stevenage had their moment of glory in the I-I draw at Broadhall Way ten days ago; now it is our turn. The non-League side, revelling in their new-found fame as the nation's favourite underdog, will be put in their place. It is pay-back time.

"There has been a circus surrounding the whole game," Dalglish said. "We have just got on with it. The way Stevenage have gone about the job is up to them, but nothing they can say or do is going to affect us. They should concentrate on themselves: that's what we have done."

"Our players have said nothing. They have conducted themselves impeccably, they have got on with the job in a thoroughly professional manner. Unfortunately, it has been difficult for us to have a joke or to be constructive because everything we say is twisted and contorted."

Alan Shearer, the England and Newcastle striker, maintained the diplomacy. "I enjoyed the game down there and I'm looking forward to the replay," he said on the eve of his fifth game back from injury. "I'll talk about Stevenage after the tie. It's not my style to do anything else."

Amid the hype, or playing down of it, Dalglish managed to conduct business yesterday, when he signed a pre-contract agreement with Stephen Glass, the Scotland Under-21 and Aberdeen midfielder. "If we can agree a fee with Aberdeen, he'll be here sooner rather than later," Dalglish said.

However, if there was a feeling that the upstarts have had their day, that the excitement and euphoria of Broadhall Way will not be repeated, Stevenage were having none of it. The plans of Paul Fairclough, the manager, may have been disrupted by inju-

Young master — 40  
Italians staying — 40  
Girola holds key — 40

ries and suspensions, but he remained buoyant.

"We have earned the right to a replay and want to enjoy it," he said. "We will obviously try to win but if we lose heavily, it won't be because people have said we will. It will be because Newcastle are the better side on the night."

Giuliano Grazioli, who scored the equaliser in the first match, was similarly upbeat.



Dalglish: careful

despite having to face a late fitness test on a shin injury. "Newcastle didn't play to their potential last time and we gave them a real scare," he said. "They'll be favourites on their own pitch, but they know they'll have to play well to beat us. We might get thrashed but who cares, we'll enjoy it."

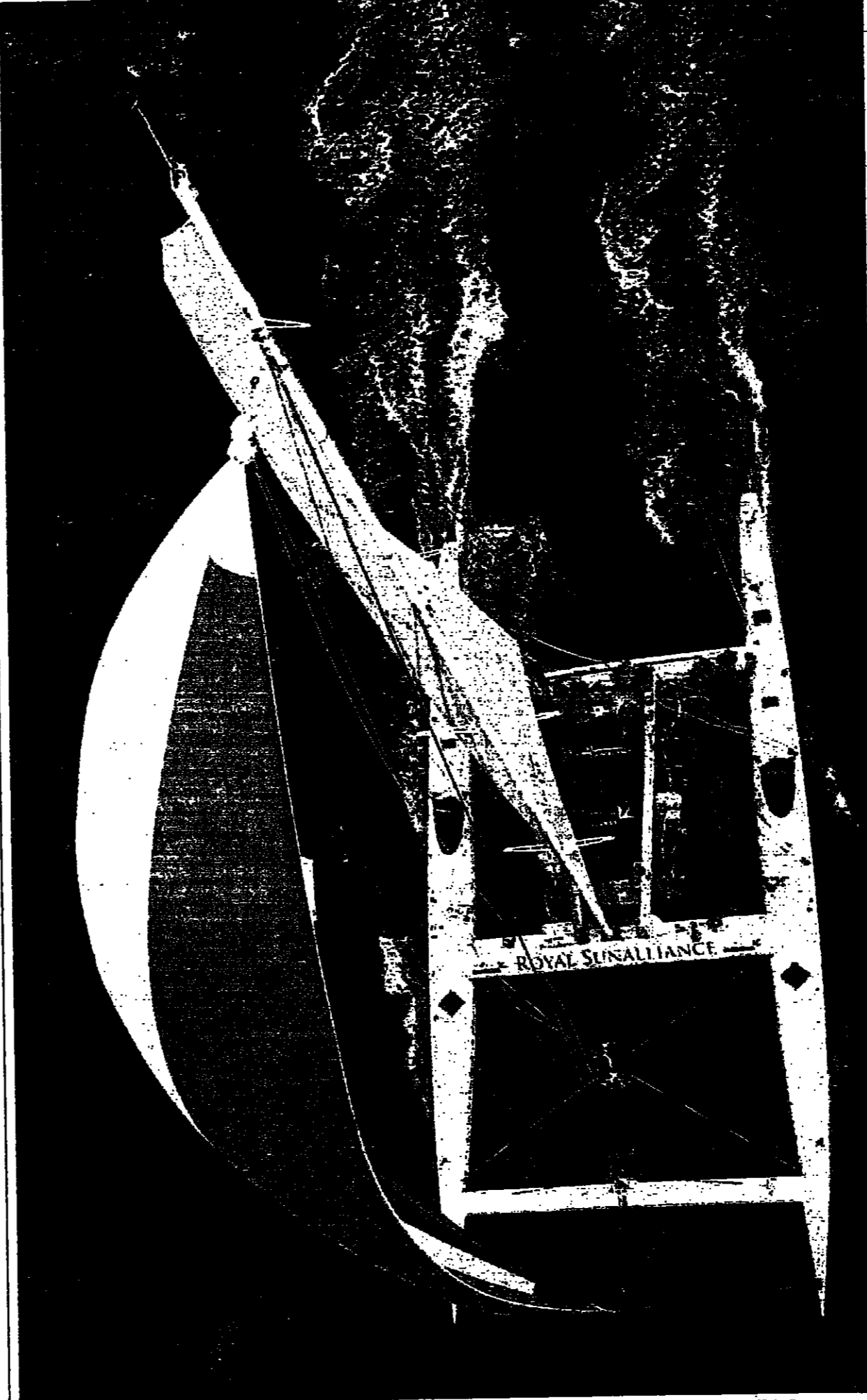
Relations between the clubs became strained before the original tie, after Newcastle's initial reluctance to play the tie in Hertfordshire, but lines of communication have been restored. The Stevenage players were allowed to visit St James' Park on Saturday, before their FA Trophy match at nearby Gateshead, and were shown around the ground by club officials.

In a further attempt to acclimatise to the expected intense atmosphere at St James', the players trained at Broadhall Way yesterday with a tape of 40,000 enthusiastic supporters blaring over the public address system.

History is on their side, with Newcastle having failed to win any of their home cup ties against non-League opposition — Wigan Athletic, Bedford Town, Hereford United and Hendon. Yet, whatever the outcome this evening, memories of the first game will dwell long in the Stevenage minds. "At corners, it was awesome to see Alan Shearer and John Barnes standing next to you," Des Gallagher, the Stevenage goalkeeper, recalled. "I had to do a double take."

"We're going to be weakened but the manager has a game plan and I'm sure it'll be tight again. If we stand off them, they'll walk all over us, but if we get close to them, we can stop them playing. It doesn't matter if you're the best player in the world, you can't play if you haven't got any time."

Stevenage have done a lot of talking and Newcastle have listened patiently, waiting for the moment. Though they should not have needed a second attempt, that moment is now.



Tracy Edwards and her all-women crew, aboard their 92ft catamaran, crossed the starting line off Ushant, near Brest, yesterday at the start of an attempt to set a record for sailing non-stop round the world. Report, page 41

## Decision on biting incident delayed

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

THE fate of Kevin Yates was still undecided yesterday evening as the disciplinary hearing into the alleged ear-biting during the Turkey's Bitter Cup tie between Bath and London Scottish wore on.

As the hearing at the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) Twickenham headquarters continued late into the evening, it appeared that a decision may not be announced until today, and that there might even be an adjournment until next week to allow a weekend of international rugby to take place uninterfered.

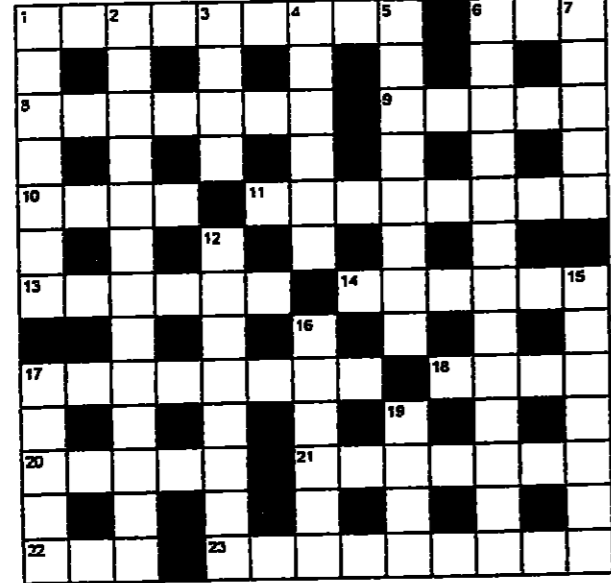
Leading players from both clubs, as well as expert witnesses, gave evidence to a panel chaired by Michael Burton, QC, and assisted by Jonathan Dance and Brian Baister, both members of the RFU's council. The panel's task is to adjudicate on the cause of the damage to the ear of Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, during the cup-tie at the Bath Recreation Ground on January 10.

Fenn's ear required 25 stitches and London Scottish, after initially citing the entire Bath front row who played that day — Yates, Federico Mendez and Victor Ubogui — withdrew their accusations against Ubogui and Mendez. Throughout the hearing and which has done the sport's reputation considerable damage, Yates has maintained his innocence.

Yates, 26, has been interviewed three times by his employers at Bath, who had been due to hold their own hearing yesterday before the RFU machinery superseded theirs. The panel assembled in Twickenham's main boardroom in the West Stand at 9.30am and interviewed players involved in the match, as well as experts in front-row forward play, such as Jeff Probyn, the former England prop.

The evidence of Fenn, who resumed playing 12 days ago, was amplified by videos of the incident, which have been reviewed by both clubs and which were available to the panel. Yates, whose legal advisers successfully applied for a postponement of Bath's internal hearing to give them more time to prepare a defence, could face a lengthy suspension, were he to be found guilty.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1320

- ACROSS
- 1 Final demand (9)
  - 6 Speck: a year long ago (3)
  - 8 Understand: turn into cash (7)
  - 9 Fog: surge (5)
  - 10 Fish organ: v. pint (4)
  - 11 Order of importance (8)
  - 13 Sinecure (6)
  - 14 Rankle (6)
  - 17 Aircraft body (8)
  - 18 Springs: type of year (4)
  - 20 (Bird) settle to sleep (5)
  - 21 Kenya capital (7)
  - 22 (Fr.) witicism (3): car exam (1,1,1)
  - 23 A colour; may give boy allure (5,4)
- DOWN
- 1 Honest; sort of piano (7)
  - 2 Provoke a quarrel (5,4,4)
  - 3 Mutilate (4)
  - 4 Speculative idea (6)
  - 5 One misleadingly named (8)
  - 6 Inveterate (4-2-3-4)
  - 7 Match: reckoning (5)
  - 8 Opinion sampler (8)
  - 12 Cold-blooded vertebrate (7)
  - 15 Intervention: secretary supplier (6)
  - 17 Area of Rome: discussion opportunity (5)
  - 19 Tablet to swallow (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1319
- ACROSS: 7 Roan 8 Apoplexy 9 Haziness 10 Apex 11 Voyeur 13 Tee off 15 Aghast 17 Insist 19 Shot 21 Catholic 23 Milliner 24 Drab
- DOWN: 1 For a song 2 Entire 3 Bane 4 Rossetti 5 Ullage 6 Axle 12 Retiree 14 Festival 16 Attila 18 Shoddy 20 Hail 22 Turn

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## McManaman in race for fitness

A HAMSTRING injury could prevent Steve McManaman from joining the England squad next week. The Liverpool midfielder player will have treatment all week and will not train before Friday in an attempt to play against Southampton in the FA Carling Premiership the next day. If he fails, he will almost certainly be withdrawn from the squad to face Chile at Wembley on Wednesday next week.

McManaman's chances of playing for both club and country have been raised by quick work from the Liverpool physiotherapist, Mark Leather, who managed to take the 25-year-old off as a precaution at half-time in the Premiership game against Blackburn Rovers at Anfield on Saturday.

Evans said: "The advice was to get him off early and not risk a more serious injury. Mark realised the hamstring was tight and any further activity would have caused a worse problem: all credit to the physio on that one."

Paul Scholes, the Manchester United midfielder player, has been suspended for the second time this season.

The England international was booked for the eighth time since the summer while playing against Leicester City on Saturday. He served a three-match suspension in November and December.

It means that Scholes will miss the FA Cup fifth-round tie against either Tottenham Hotspur or Barnsley at Old Trafford on February 15 and the Premiership match away to Aston Villa three days later.

## Collins wins legal battle with Hearn

BARRY HEARN, the promoter, faces a £500,000 legal bill after losing a breach-of-contract dispute against Steve Collins, the former world boxing champion (Audrey Magee writes). The Dublin High Court declared that Hearn had fundamentally breached his management responsibilities to the boxer, who is now retired.

Collins, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion, had been signed up to Hearn's Matchroom Boxing promotions company. Hearn and Matchroom sued Collins for an alleged breach of contract, claiming that a one-year deal with the boxer had been extended for a further 12 months from May 1995. Collins denied the claim.

The promoter said that he was entitled to 25 per cent of Collins' earnings during the disputed period. Collins was a lucrative source of income between May 1995 and 1996 as he had just beaten Chris Eubank in a WBO title fight in Cork. Hearn, who also managed Eubank, claimed that he was entitled to a quarter of the £2.2 million purse won by Collins in three subsequent fights, including a rematch between Collins and Eubank.

In his judgment, Mr Justice O'Sullivan concluded that there had been an agreement between boxer and promoter between 1995 and 1996, but that Hearn had failed to fulfil his managerial responsibilities. He said that Hearn was not entitled to any money. After the judgment, Collins said that he was delighted. Had he lost, he would have been faced with a £1 million bill.

## Tour operators seek Test guarantee

THE leading tour operator to the Caribbean is seeking assurances from West Indies Cricket Board (WIBC) that the final Test match on England's tour, due to be played next month, will not be switched from Antigua. If these are not forthcoming, International Travel Connection (ITC) will hold administrators and the island's Government responsible for any financial losses incurred.

Drew Foster, the chairman of ITC, is acting on behalf of tour operators such as Gulliver's and Kuoni, in addition to his own company. "If we hear that the Test is being moved from Antigua because the ground is not fit, we will have to put pressure on the Government and hoteliers to release us from our contracts," he said. "The cost of changing venues now would be immense to us."

"We shall hold the WIBC and the Government responsible because to alter our bookings would be too expensive. We had to pay money up front to hoteliers because space was at a premium. There are 4,000 England supporters due to fly to Antigua and we cannot rely on the waiving of bills that we received in Jamaica when the first Test was abandoned," Foster said.

The ground at St John's, where the final Test is scheduled to start on March 20, is being retained with turf imported from Georgia. There is continuing speculation that the fixture will be switched to Barbados. "I just hope there will not be any floods. I think the outfield will grow quickly, but we have to know what state the ground is in," Foster added.

Foster and other tour operators, including The Cricketer holidays group, are consulting their lawyers as to whether they have a claim against WIBC over the abandonment of the first Test. "We shall

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